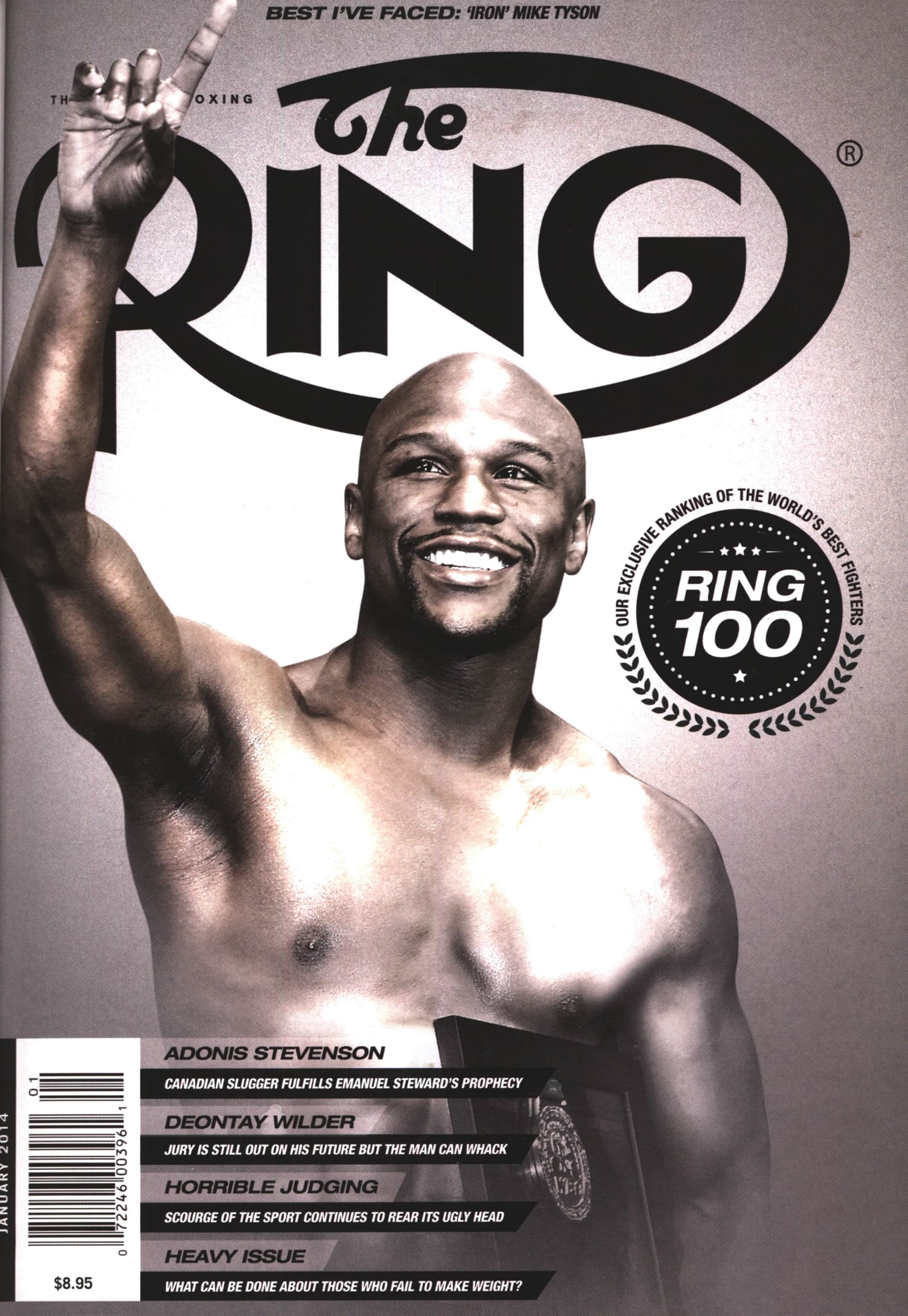
BEST I'VE FACED: 'IRON' MIKE TYSON

THE BOXING

The RING®



OUR EXCLUSIVE RANKING OF THE WORLD'S BEST FIGHTERS

RING 100

ADONIS STEVENSON

CANADIAN SLUGGER FULFILLS EMANUEL STEWARD'S PROPHECY

DEONTAY WILDER

JURY IS STILL OUT ON HIS FUTURE BUT THE MAN CAN WHACK

HORRIBLE JUDGING

SCOURGE OF THE SPORT CONTINUES TO REAR ITS UGLY HEAD

HEAVY ISSUE

WHAT CAN BE DONE ABOUT THOSE WHO FAIL TO MAKE WEIGHT?

JANUARY 2014

0 72246 00396 1 01

$8.95

BOXING

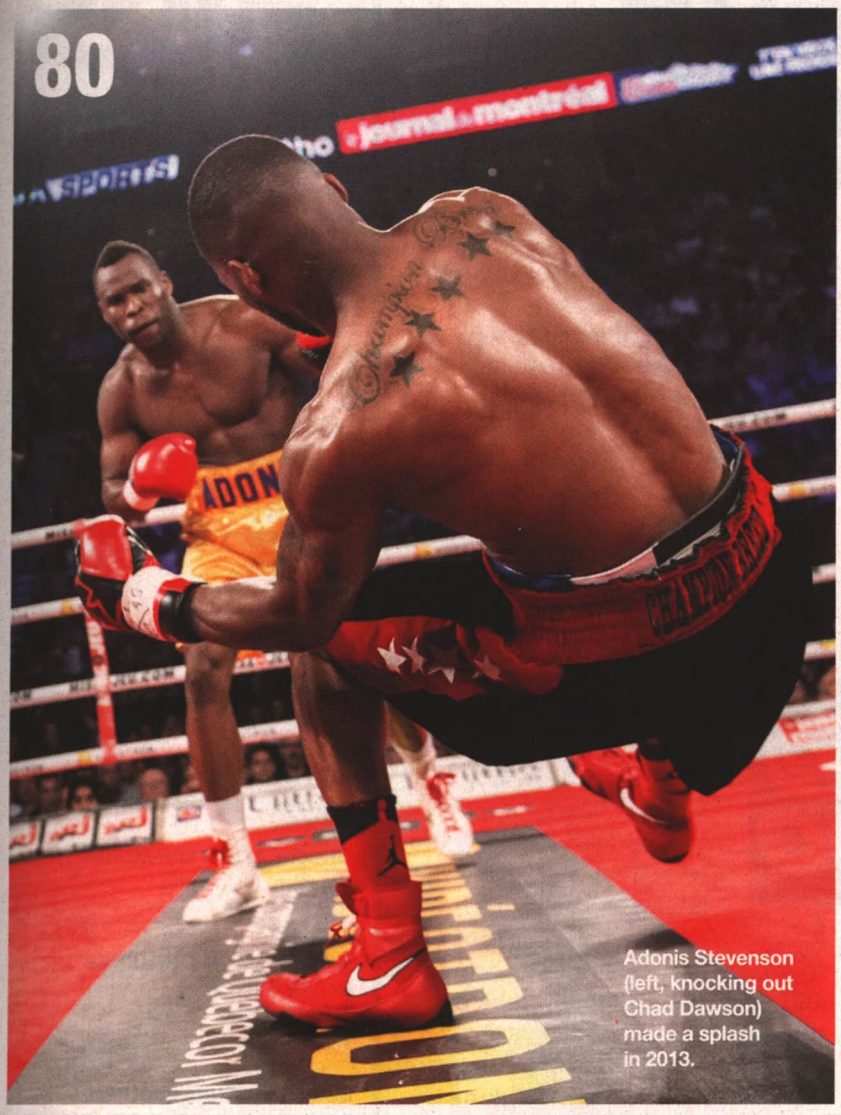
THE NEW LIGHTWEIGHT CHAMP HAS ARRIVED

AVAILABLE AT WWW.ATHLETEPS.COM

aps

ATHLETE PERFORMANCE SOLUTIONS, LLC

FEATURES



Adonis Stevenson (left, knocking out Chad Dawson) made a splash in 2013.

COVER STORY

38 RING 100
THE RING'S EXCLUSIVE ANNUAL RANKING OF THE BEST IN BOXING
By David Greisman

64 DECISION TIME
SOMETHING MUST BE DONE ABOUT A RASH OF INEXPLICABLE SCORING
By Ron Borges

70 SCALES OF JUSTICE
FIGHTERS' INABILITY TO MAKE WEIGHT HAS BECOME A BIG PROBLEM
By Tim Smith

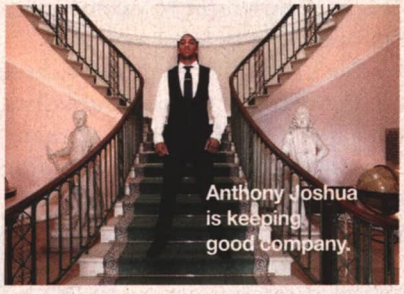
74 POWER PLUS
JURY REMAINS OUT ON DEONTAY WILDER, BUT HIS KO STREAK IS INTRIGUING
By Norm Frauenheim

80 PROPHECY FULFILLED
ADONIS STEVENSON PROVES HIS LATE TRAINER RIGHT WITH VICTORIES
By Keith Idec

86 FIRST DOMINO?
SIGNING OF U.S. AMATEUR STAR COULD BE THE START OF A TREND
By Bernard Fernandez

DEPARTMENTS

4 RINGSIDE
5 OPENING SHOTS
10 COME OUT WRITING
13 ROLL WITH THE PUNCHES
Jabs and Straight Writes by Thomas Hauser
18 BEST I'VE FACED: MIKE TYSON
By Anson Wainwright
21 RING CARD GIRL
25 READY TO GRUMBLE
By David Greisman
28 OUTSIDE THE ROPES
By Brian Harty
30 RING RATINGS PACKAGE



Anthony Joshua is keeping good company.

90 LETTERS FROM EUROPE
By Gareth A Davies
95 SWEET SCIENCE
By Scott LaFee
98 NEW FACES
By Mike Coppinger
100 WOMEN'S BOXING
By Thomas Gerbasi
103 RINGSIDE REPORTS
By Norm Frauenheim
108 WORLDWIDE RESULTS
110 COMING UP
112 FROM THE ARCHIVE
114 AT THE FIGHTS

AT RINGTV.COM

MALIGNAGGI-JUDAH
Video: New Yorkers Paulie Malignaggi and Zab Judah discuss their Dec. 7 fight in Brooklyn.
GO TO: http://bit.ly/H6LWjf or scan the QR Code.

HOPKINS ON BLACK FIGHTERS
Senior statesman Bernard Hopkins, a future Hall of Famer, said it is "a curse to be slick" these days.
GO TO: http://bit.ly/1cz9GHs or scan the QR Code.

DON'T FORGET TO FOLLOW US ON: WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/RINGTV @RINGMAGAZINE YouTube THERINGDIGITAL

COVER PHOTO BY JEFF BOTTARI / GOLDEN BOY PROMOTIONS / GETTY IMAGES

QUEST FOR THE BEST

Selecting the 100 best fighters in the world and ranking them in order is no easy task.

That's why we called in David Greisman, Martin Mulcahey and Anson Wainwright to do the job. No one has a better handle on boxing's minutiae than these three boxing nerds … er, ace journalists, who spend much more time than they should on YouTube watching fights from around the world.

No surprise that they logged a ridiculous number of hours putting together the RING 100, spending much of their existence for several weeks on Boxrec.com and other sites comparing the fighters.

And to be clear, this is *their* list. Doug Fischer, editor of RingTV.com, and I wanted to provide some input because the project is a reflection of THE RING. However, we deferred to our RING 100 Team in virtually all instances.

Nos. 1 and 2 were easy to select: Floyd Mayweather Jr. and Andre Ward. After that, things got dicey.

Consider No. 3. Four of us – Greisman, Mulcahey, Wainwright and I, who are separated by great distances – got on a conference call to go over the list before it was finalized. We must've discussed No. 3 for 15 minutes, an eternity given the length of the list.

Three fighters were considered: Timothy Bradley, Sergio Martinez and (even though he ended up at No. 7) Wladimir Klitschko. Bradley beat the RING's No. 3 fighter pound-for-pound to remain undefeated. Martinez hasn't lost since 2009 but appears to be breaking down. And Klitschko has been as dominating as anyone against inferior opposition.

Bradley won out, but we each had some doubt when we moved on to other issues. Who should round out our Top 10, Nonito Donaire or Danny Garcia? Where should Ruslan Provodnikov, who wasn't on the list last year, fall after his sensational knockout of Mike Alvarado? Should Zab Judah and Arthur Abraham even be on the list?

We went back and forth on these and many other issues – taking into consideration what each fighter has accomplished in recent fights and the overall talent they display – before deciding in the most egalitarian manner where everyone belonged.

For the record: We acknowledge that this is far from an exact science. We're fairly certain that the fighters near the top of the list belong there, but the bulk of this exercise was purely subjective.

The point is to provoke discussion among our readers. Once again, let the debate begin.

The RING

VOLUME 93, NO. 1 | JANUARY 2014

FOUNDER
Nathaniel Fleischer
(1888-1972)

EDITOR
Michael Rosenthal

ASSOCIATE EDITOR
Douglass Fischer

CONTRIBUTING EDITOR
Brian Harty

ART DIRECTOR
Lamar Clark

COVER DESIGN
ANYONE™ COLLECTIVE

RING CARD GIRLS COORDINATOR
Heather Shanholtz

CONTROLLER
Deborah L. Harrison

CIRCULATION DIRECTOR
Kenneth J. Gudaitis

ADVERTISING INQUIRIES
Robert Gasparri
213-233-2952
sepub@sepublications.com

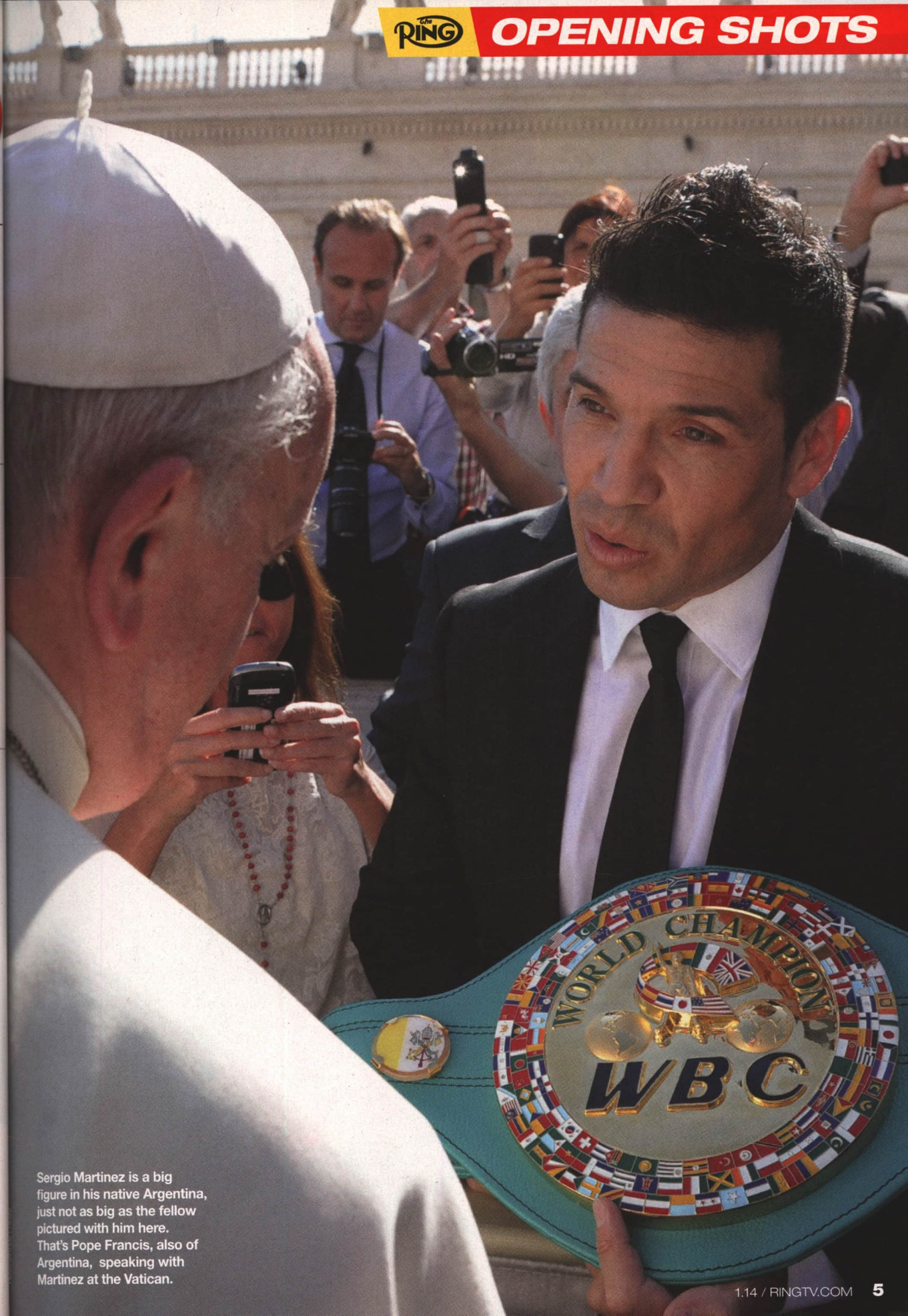
SUBSCRIPTION INQUIRIES
SPORTS AND ENTERTAINMENT PUBLICATIONS
P.O. BOX 433122
Palm Coast, FL 32164-3122
1-800-846-6438
thering@emailcustomerservice.com

BACK ISSUES
215-643-3087 OR ONLINE AT RINGTV.COM

DIGITAL EDITION INQUIRIES
support@imirus.com

SEND EDITORIAL COMMENTS TO:
comeoutwriting@sepublications.com
or P.O. BOX 251753,
Los Angeles CA, 90025

THE RING (ISSN: 0035-5410), Vol. 93, NO. 1 (JANUARY 2014), is published monthly by Sports and Entertainment Publications, LLC, PO Box 90254 Brooklyn, NY 11209. Periodicals postage paid at Brooklyn, NY 11209 and additional post offices. Postmasters: Send change of address notices to: THE RING, P.O. Box 433122, Palm Coast, FL 32164-3122. Single copy price $8.95 in U.S. and Canada (£4.95 in the UK). Subscription price $58.70 in the U.S., $127.10 in Canada and Mexico, $143.70 in remaining countries. Not responsible for the loss or non-return of unsolicited articles or photographs, which will not be returned unless accompanied by a self-addressed envelope bearing the proper amount of postage. The entire contents of this magazine are copyright ©2012 Sports and Entertainment Publications, LLC. No part of this magazine may be reproduced without the written permission of the publisher. All rights reserved. Publisher is not responsible for the accuracy of the content of advertisements appearing in this magazine, nor the delivery or quality of merchandise or services offered. No endorsement of any such advertisement is intended or implied. Advertisers and agencies assume liability for claims arising from the content of their advertisements. FOR ADVERTISING INQUIRES AND RATES: (213) 233-2952. U.S. and Canadian distribution by Kable Distribution Services Inc., 14 Wall Street, Suite 4C, New York, NY 10022. International distribution by Worldwide Media Service Inc., 115 East 23rd St., New York, NY 10010, UK distribution by Comag Tavistock Rd., West Drayton, Middlesex UB77QE, England. Printed in U.S.A.



Sergio Martinez is a big figure in his native Argentina, just not as big as the fellow pictured with him here. That's Pope Francis, also of Argentina, speaking with Martinez at the Vatican.

Ruslan Provodnikov's past two performances – a close, entertaining loss to Timothy Bradley and a knockout of Mike Alvarado (pictured here) – have made him a significant figure in boxing.

Bryan Vera (left) gave an overweight Julio Cesar Chavez Jr. more trouble than anyone – including Chavez – expected on Sept. 28.

SCORE ONE FOR MARQUEZ

I watched Timothy Bradley vs. Juan Manuel Marquez live in Sweden. The Swedish commentator Roger Pettersson, who was an outstanding amateur, believed Marquez won clearly. As did I. Yes, it was a close fight, but saying Bradley won clearly makes me wonder if people have gone blind to make this guy a star. Marquez landed the harder punches. Why no credit for that? Bradley moved around laterally and landed jabs while Marquez cut off the ring with little movement.

Stefan Arvidsson
Vendel, Sweden

GOOD DECISION

First of all, I'm a staunch supporter of Juan Manuel Marquez. So for me to say that Timothy Bradley won their fight fair and square quite frankly means a lot. In Marquez's previous fight, I believe Manny Pacquiao was on his way to a TKO or unanimous decision. So in short: It's time for Marquez to retire.

Frank Santos
San Diego

WRONG APPROACH?

I don't think Juan Manuel Marquez understands that boxing defensively and only with counterattacks often brings you to defeat. I think Marquez lost clearly on points against Timothy Bradley. The judges have to reward the boxer who attacks and looks to put on a show.

Marcel Coromines Rierola
Barcelona, Spain

POOR SPORTSMANSHIP

Juan Manuel Marquez often speaks of intelligence when talking about his fights. However, saying he was robbed in his fight against Timothy Bradley makes him sound the complete opposite of intelligent. He lost fair and square. Claiming he has been robbed six times in his career is stupid. Manny Pacquiao's loss to Bradley was much more controversial, and Pacquiao was gracious in defeat. He showed how a true sportsman should carry himself. Marquez says the decision was bad for boxing, but I think the poor sportsmanship he displayed was worse.

Victor Rivero
Pacifica, Calif.

GARCIA INJUSTICE?

How do you guys not have Danny Garcia in the Top 10 pound for pound? He is the undefeated champion of one the most competitive divisions in the sport. Compare his resume to that of Adrien Broner (No. 8 pound for pound) or Canelo Alvarez (No. 9) and then do the right thing.

Joey Salande
New Orleans

NO FAN OF KLITSCHKO

I am an 81-year-old man with a 12-1 amateur record while in the service, and I love boxing. I just gave up a Saturday afternoon of good college football to watch Wladimir Klitschko-Alexander Povetkin. What I saw was a taller, slimmer, smarter grandmother lean on a short grandmother while a possible professional wrestling referee looked on. No wonder HBO seldom shows Klitschko fights. P.S.: Archie Moore refereed my last fight, which I lost, in Oakland, Calif., in 1958.

Ron Schmucker
Palm Coast, Fla.

SHAME ON BOXING

Allowing Billy Smith and his brother, Ernie, to absorb beating after beating after beating ("Billy Smith and the Case Against Boxing," November 2013) was clearly unconscionable. Boxing should not be built upon a foundation of human punching bags. Some boxers need to be protected from themselves. And they should be.

Richard Haglund
Mound City, Kan.

FOR THE RECORD

As the result of a production error, the Manny Pacquiao-Brandon Rios analysis in the December 2013 issue included the wrong text. For the correct version of the article, please go to bit.ly/182n3KZ or scan the QR code. THE RING regrets the error.

WRITE TO THE RING!

Come Out Writing, The Ring, P.O. Box 251753, Los Angeles, CA 90025
comeoutwriting@sepublications.com
Emailed letters will include a writer's email address unless a city and state of origin is provided. Letters may be edited for reasons of space and clarity.

LOS GUANTES DE LOS CAMPEONES

Ph. (619) 863 4557

store.cletoreyes.com
ANAHEIM STORE
1808 N National Street
Anaheim, CA 92801

www.cletoreyes.com
SAN DIEGO STORE
2625 Imperial Ave,
San Diego, CA 92102

CLETO REYES
HECHO EN MEXICO

THIS CHRISTMAS AND THANKSGIVING JUST THE BEST

Hand Made

/cletoreyesusa

/cletoreyesteam

look for our authorized dealer

ebay cletoreyesboxingequipment

/Cleto Reyes USA

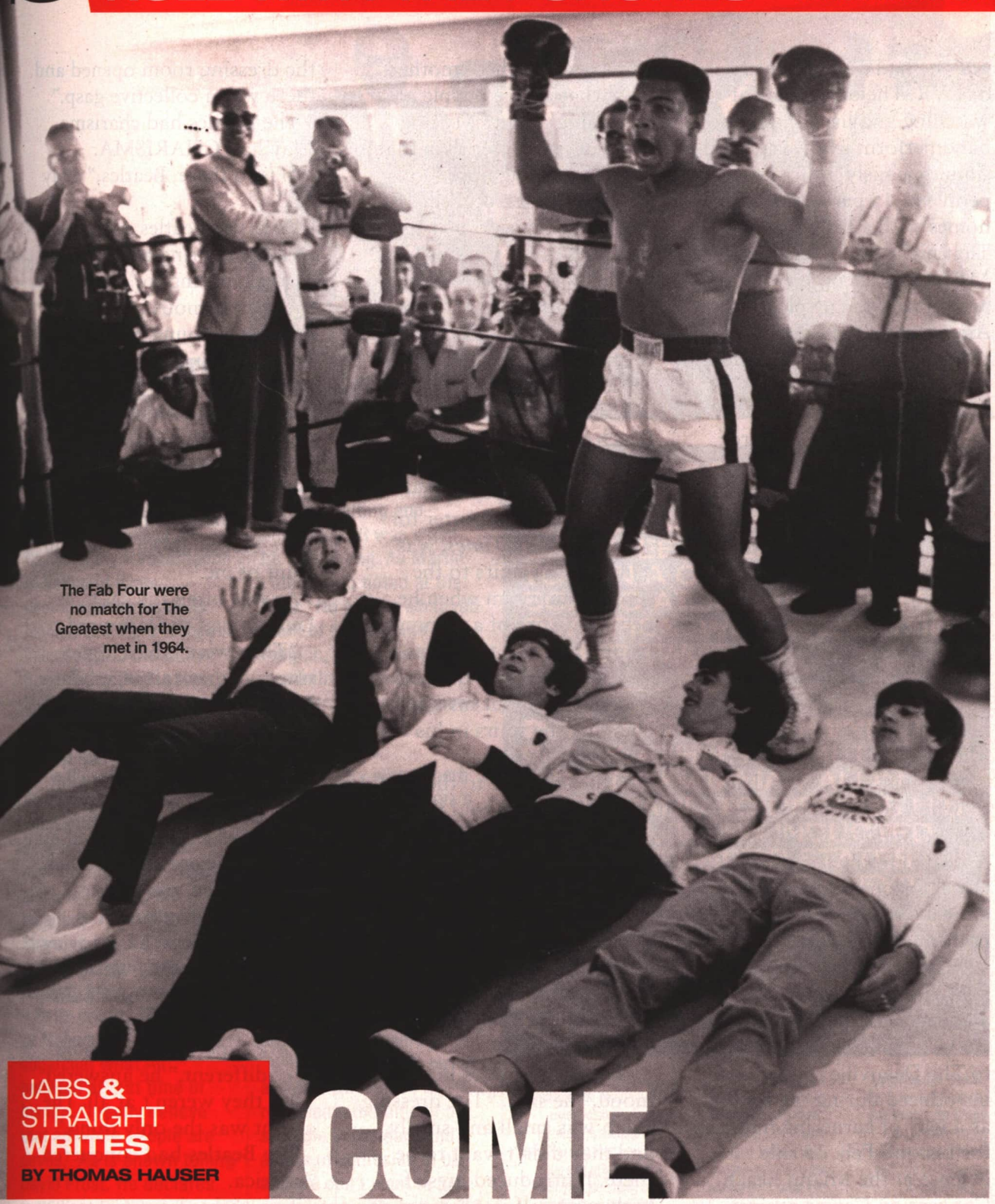
Corona™ Extra

★ BOXING ★

ACHIEVING GREATNESS *takes* SOMETHING EXTRA.

PROUD SPONSOR OF GOLDEN BOY

Imported by Crown Imports LLC. Chicago, IL 60603. Relax resp



The Fab Four were no match for The Greatest when they met in 1964.

JABS & STRAIGHT **WRITES**
BY THOMAS HAUSER

COME TOGETHER

WHEN THE BEATLES MET CASSIUS CLAY

The Beatles were introduced to America on *The Ed Sullivan Show* on Feb. 9, 1964. Virtually everyone in the United States knew that the telecast was coming.

No one had a VHS player or DVR. The experience of watching and listening to the band perform live was shared simultaneously by 73 million people in 45 percent of all homes with a television set. That night, John Lennon, Paul McCartney, George Harrison, and Ringo Starr exploded into American culture and entered the consciousness of a nation.

Two days later, the Beatles traveled by train to Washington, D.C. Three thousand screaming fans were there when the train arrived at Union Station. There was a reception in the Beatles' honor at the British embassy and a sold-out concert at the 18,000-seat Washington Coliseum.

Next, the Beatles returned to New York for two performances at Carnegie Hall (the first rock 'n' roll shows ever at that site). After that, they flew to Florida, where *The Ed Sullivan Show* had relocated to the Deauville Hotel for one night. As they'd done a week earlier, the band performed two sets.

Heavyweight champion Sonny Liston was in the audience. Publicist Harold Conrad had brought him to The Deauville to be introduced during the telecast as a way of garnering publicity for Liston's Feb. 25 title defense at the Miami Beach Convention Center against 7-to-1 underdog Cassius Clay.

"A couple of minutes after the Beatles started singing," Conrad later recalled, "Sonny sticks an elbow in my ribs and says, 'Are these mother----s what all the people are screaming about? My dog plays drums better than that kid with the big nose.'"

Two day later, on Feb. 18, Conrad arranged for the Beatles to meet Cassius Clay.

"He didn't know who they were," Conrad said. "He had some idea they were rock stars from England, but that's all."

The meeting took place at the 5th Street Gym in Miami Beach, where Clay was training for the upcoming fight. Robert Lipsyte, then a young sports reporter for *The New York Times*, was climbing the stairs to the second-floor gym when he became aware of a commotion behind him. He turned and saw four similarly-dressed young men about his age climbing the stairs in his wake. It was the Beatles.

At the entrance to the gym, the Beatles were told that Clay hadn't arrived yet.

"Let's get the f--- out of here," Lennon said.

Two security guards herded the group into a dressing room and barred the door behind them. Lipsyte was pushed in with them and recounts what happened next.

"The Beatles were in a foul mood," he said. "The dressing room was small and smelly, and they didn't want to be there. I introduced myself with great self-importance as a reporter for *The New York Times*. John shook my hand and told me he was Ringo, Paul said that he was John, and so on. Then the door to the dressing room opened and there was a collective gasp."

The Beatles had charisma. Clay had CHARISMA.

"Hello there, Beatles," Clay said.

Then the Beatles and Clay went to the ring and cavorted around, posing for photos, the most famous of which shows the young men from Liverpool lined up and Clay hitting Harrison with a jab, after which all four Beatles fell down like dominoes.

"I didn't know it at the time," Lipsyte said. "None of us could have. But The '60s were blooming right there in front of me."

As was often the case, Lennon had the last word.

"They were all up in the ring together, talking about how much money they made," Conrad said. "Cassius pulled out a line he used all the time. He looked at them and said, 'You guys ain't as dumb as you look.' Lennon looked him right in the eye and told him, 'No, but you are.'"

The Beatles returned to London on Feb. 22. Arriving home, McCartney was asked at Heathrow Airport about the fans in America.

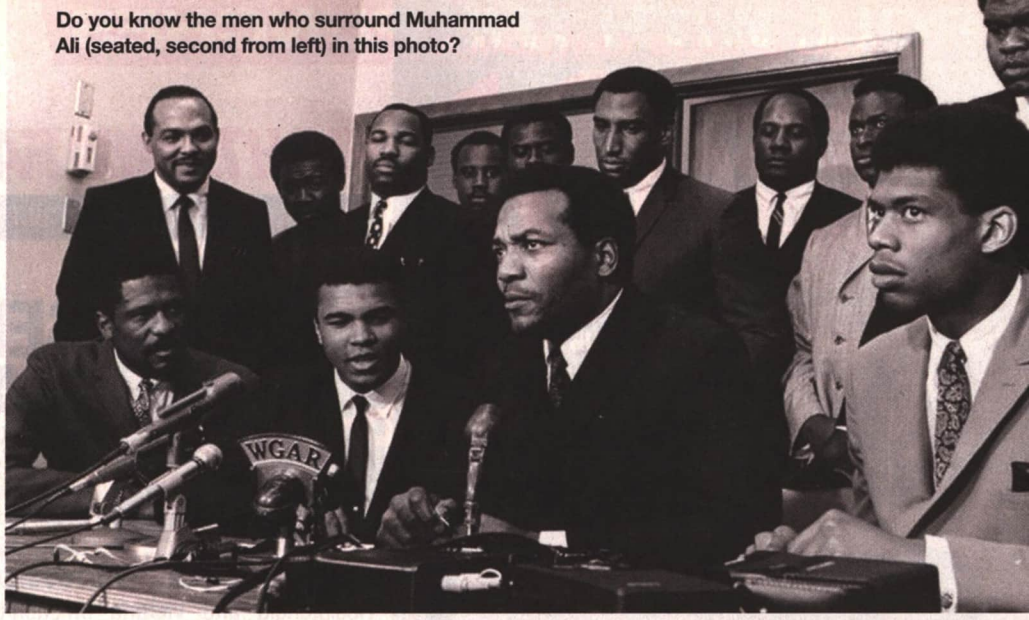
"We expected them to be very different," he answered. "But they weren't at all. The accent was the only thing."

The Beatles had conquered America.

Two nights later, Cassius Clay knocked out Sonny Liston to claim the heavyweight championship of the world.

"The '60s" had begun.

Do you know the men who surround Muhammad Ali (seated, second from left) in this photo?



FILM CAPTURES ALI, ERA

The Trials of Muhammad Ali, a 92-minute documentary directed by Bill Siegel, focuses on Cassius Clay's acceptance of Nation of Islam doctrine, his refusal, as Muhammad Ali, to accept induction into the United States Army during the height of the war in Vietnam and the court battles that followed.

The film shows how Ali grew emotionally and intellectually while in exile from boxing and explains, both accurately and intelligently, the legalities of the U.S. Supreme Court's reversal of Ali's conviction for refusing induction.

To its credit, *The Trials of Muhammad Ali* doesn't sugarcoat what Ali believed at that time in his life. "I really believe that all white people are devils," Ali is shown telling David Frost. He declares to William Buckley Jr.: "Elijah Muhammad did not teach us that white people are our enemy. You taught us that white people are our enemy."

The film is compelling, entertaining, moving and informative, a reminder of how exciting and polarizing Ali was when he was young. As Martin Luther King noted at the time, "No matter what you think of Muhammad Ali's religion, you certainly have to admire his courage."

Contemporary interviews are interspersed throughout the documentary with superb archival footage. If there's a criticism to be made, it's that Louis Farrakhan has a more prominent role in the film than his involvement with Ali might warrant. Farrakhan was not central to Clay's conversion to the Nation of Islam. And in 1984, Ali spoke out publicly against him, declaring, "What he teaches is not at all what we believe in. He represents the time of our struggle in the dark and a time of confusion in us, and we don't want to be associated with that at all."

That said, *The Trials of Muhammad Ali* stands with the best of the Ali documentaries and is a valuable addition to the historical record.

QUICK QUIZ

1. CASSIUS CLAY WAS ONE OF THREE AMERICANS TO WIN A GOLD MEDAL IN BOXING AT THE 1960 ROME OLYMPICS. WHO WERE THE OTHER TWO?

2. IN 1967, 10 PROMINENT BLACK ATHLETES MET WITH MUHAMMAD ALI IN CLEVELAND TO DISCUSS HIS REFUSAL TO BE INDUCTED INTO THE UNITED STATES ARMY. WHO WERE THEY?

3. WHO WAS THE FIRST FIGHTER TO CUT MUHAMMAD ALI IN A PROFESSIONAL FIGHT?

QUICK QUIZ ANSWERS:

1. The other two Americans to win gold medals in boxing at the 1960 Olympics were Wilbert McClure at light middleweight and Eddie Crook at middleweight.

2. The meeting was organized by football great Jim Brown. Bill Russell, Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, John Wooten, Walter Beach, Sid Williams, Willie Davis, Curtis McClinton, Jim Shorter and Bobby Mitchell also attended.

3. On Nov. 21, 1972, light heavyweight great Bob Foster opened up a cut beneath Ali's left eyebrow that required five stitches to close. Ali knocked Foster down seven times and stopped him in the eighth round.

Thomas Hauser can be reached by email at thauser@rcn.com. His most recent book (*Thomas Hauser on Sports: Remembering the Journey*) has just been published by the University of Arkansas Press.

ADVANCED DEGREES

Degrees of separation between fighters of the past and their counterparts today. This month: The great Mickey Walker, who started his career in 1919 and fought as light as 139 pounds, to current heavyweight king Wladimir Klitschko – in only eight steps!

MICKEY WALKER
fought ...

MAX SCHMELING,
who fought ...

JOE LOUIS,
who fought ...

ROCKY MARCIANO,
who fought ...

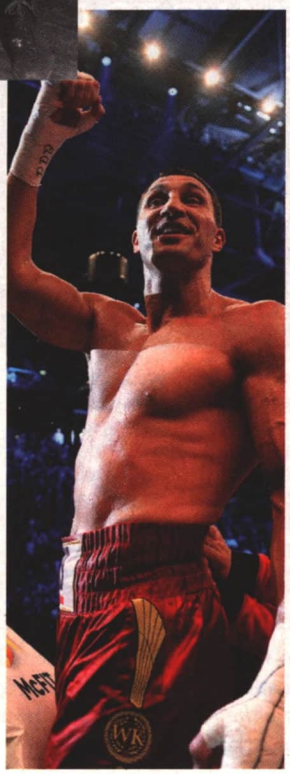
ARCHIE MOORE,
who fought ...

MUHAMMAD ALI,
who fought ...

TREVOR BERBICK,
who fought ...

HASIM RAHMAN,
who fought ...

WLADIMIR KLITSCHKO



FIGHTERS' FAVORITES

WHAT BOXERS ARE INTO OUTSIDE THE SPORT

By **Anson Wainwright**

SERGIO MARTINEZ

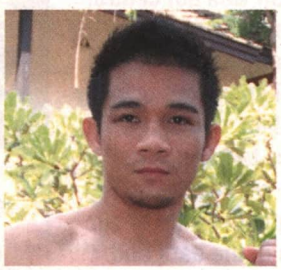
RING AND WBC MIDDLEWEIGHT TITLEHOLDER FROM ARGENTINA

MUSIC: Calle 13. ★ **CAR:** Chevrolet Camaro ZL1 (owns one). ★ **FOOD:** Argentine-style steak. ★ **TATTOOS:** Dragon on his left arm. "Resistencia" and "Victoria" on each of his forearms. ★ **FAVORITE ATHLETE OUTSIDE BOXING:** Soccer player Lionel Messi. ★ **MOVIE:** *El Expreso de Medianoche (Midnight Express).* ★ **VIDEO GAME:** "I don't play video games."

WILLIE NELSON

JUNIOR MIDDLEWEIGHT CONTENDER FROM CLEVELAND

MUSIC: R&B. ★ **CAR:** "I own a 2004 Chevy Impala." Doesn't have a dream car. ★ **FOOD:** Macaroni and cheese. ★ **TATTOOS:** 13 of them. Boxer on right arm holding up two belts, under which it says "sweat and blood." Angel with wings and his parents' names on right shoulder, "my guardian angels watching over me." ★ **ATHLETE OUTSIDE BOXING:** Lebron James, Kobe Bryant, Rajon Rondo and Michael Vick. ★ **MOVIE:** *The Lion King.* ★ **VIDEO GAME:** *Resident Evil, Tekken.*



SRISAKET SOR RUNGVISAI

WBC JUNIOR BANTAMWEIGHT TITLEHOLDER FROM THAILAND

MUSIC: Clash (Thai rock band). "I like their style; they can be both aggressive and soft." ★ **CAR:** "I own a Honda car, and I am planning to get a nice truck soon." ★ **FOOD:** "I love som tum (papaya salad) in Sisaket— very spicy and tasty." ★ **TATTOOS:** "I have none. Not my style." ★ **ATHLETE OUTSIDE BOXING:** "Somluk Kamsing, the first Thai to win an Olympic gold medal and a genius Muay Thai fighter. He is still looking sharp in his 40s." ★ **MOVIE:** *Yam Yasothon*, a Thai comedy. ★ **VIDEO GAME:** "I don't play any video games."

GOOD, BAD, WORSE

THE BEST AND WORST IN BOXING FROM THE PAST MONTH

By **Michael Rosenthal**

Good

Former heavyweight champ Lennox Lewis had a little fun recently when he suggested he might come out of retirement at 48 to face one of the Klitschko brothers, a fantastic notion that some British journalists took too seriously. Russian promoters reportedly had offered him $50 million. Lewis said that he'd do it for $100 million but was joking. He tweeted: "A hypothetical answer to a hypothetical question does NOT equal reality #NoComeback. ... I'm not stepping back in the ring but I AM looking for the next crop of new talent!" The latter part of the tweet was a reference to a new gym he plans to open in London. Lewis wants to develop fighters, not be one. I always admired Lewis for retiring after his hard-earned victory over Vitali Klitschko in 2003 and never looking back. The same with Joe Calzaghe, who left the sport undefeated. More fighters should follow their lead.

Bad

I have all the respect in the world for Juan Manuel Marquez, who has carved out a Hall of Fame career and remains elite at 40. That's why I was so disappointed that he and trainer Nacho Beristain reacted the way they did after Marquez lost a split decision to Timothy Bradley on Oct. 12. Most people thought the winner was Bradley, who seemed to get more work done. I had it 116-112 for Bradley. Marquez and Beristain saw it differently. "We came to win, and we did. The judges saw something else," Marquez said immediately after the fight. Said Beristain: Marquez "made Bradley look ridiculous." Such comments are acceptable if a fighter is clearly robbed, which obviously wasn't the case here. At best, it was a close fight. The right thing to do was simply congratulate Bradley on a good fight.

Worse

The death of a fighter is always tragic. It is even more so when it might've been prevented. Mexican Francisco Leal, 26, died on Oct. 22 in a San Diego hospital after he collapsed during a fight against Raul Hirales in Cabo San Lucas, Mexico. That wasn't the first time Leal was taken from the ring on a stretcher. He was removed in the same manner after he was viciously knocked out by Evgeny Gradovich in March 2012. He recovered from that trauma and returned to the ring, winning three of his four fights leading up to his meeting with Hirales. Perhaps that means he was perfectly healthy going into the fight that killed him. Perhaps he wasn't. Perhaps damage suffered in the Gradovich fight played some role in his demise. The point is this: We always wonder whether we do enough to take care of the brave fighters. I wonder that about Leal.

A MONTHLY BOXING LIST:

10

This month: History's best two heavyweights from the same family.

1. **Vitali and Wladimir Klitschko**
   (106-5, 92 KOs): Brothers
2. **Max and Buddy Baer**
   (117-20-0, 98 KOs): Brothers
3. **Leon and Michael Spinks**
   (57-18-3, 35 KOs): Brothers
4. **Joe and Marvis Frazier**
   (51-6-1, 35 KOs): Father, son
5. **Buster Mathis and Buster Jr.**
   (51-6, 28 KOs): Father, son
6. **Muhammad and Rahman Ali**
   (70-8-1, 44 KOs): Brothers
7. **Tony and Nate Tubbs**
   (65-14-0, 39 KOs): Brothers
8. **Jack and Brian London**
   (132-60-6, 78 KOs): Father, son
9. **Jerry and Bobby Quarry**
   (62-21-6, 38 KOs): Brothers
10. **Tom and Peter McNeeley**
    (84-21-0, 64 KOs): Father, son

Note: Combined records are for all weights at which the two boxers fought.

RING POLL

A MONTHLY POLL OF OUR RINGTV.COM READERS

When we went to press, Floyd Mayweather Jr. had yet to select his next opponent. We were curious to see what you thought. Thus, we asked: **What fighter not named Manny Pacquiao would you like to see Floyd Mayweather Jr. face in his next fight?** Here is how you responded.

THE PERCENTAGES:

Gennady Golovkin	25.6	Adrien Broner	5.4
Sergio Martinez	19.5	Miguel Cotto	5.0
Timothy Bradley	18.7	Devon Alexander	1.0
Danny Garcia	8.0	Peter Quillin	0.8
Amir Khan	8.0	Brandon Rios	0.6
Ruslan Provodnikov	6.9	Marcos Maidana	0.5

***Note:** 10,017 readers voted*

MIKE TYSON

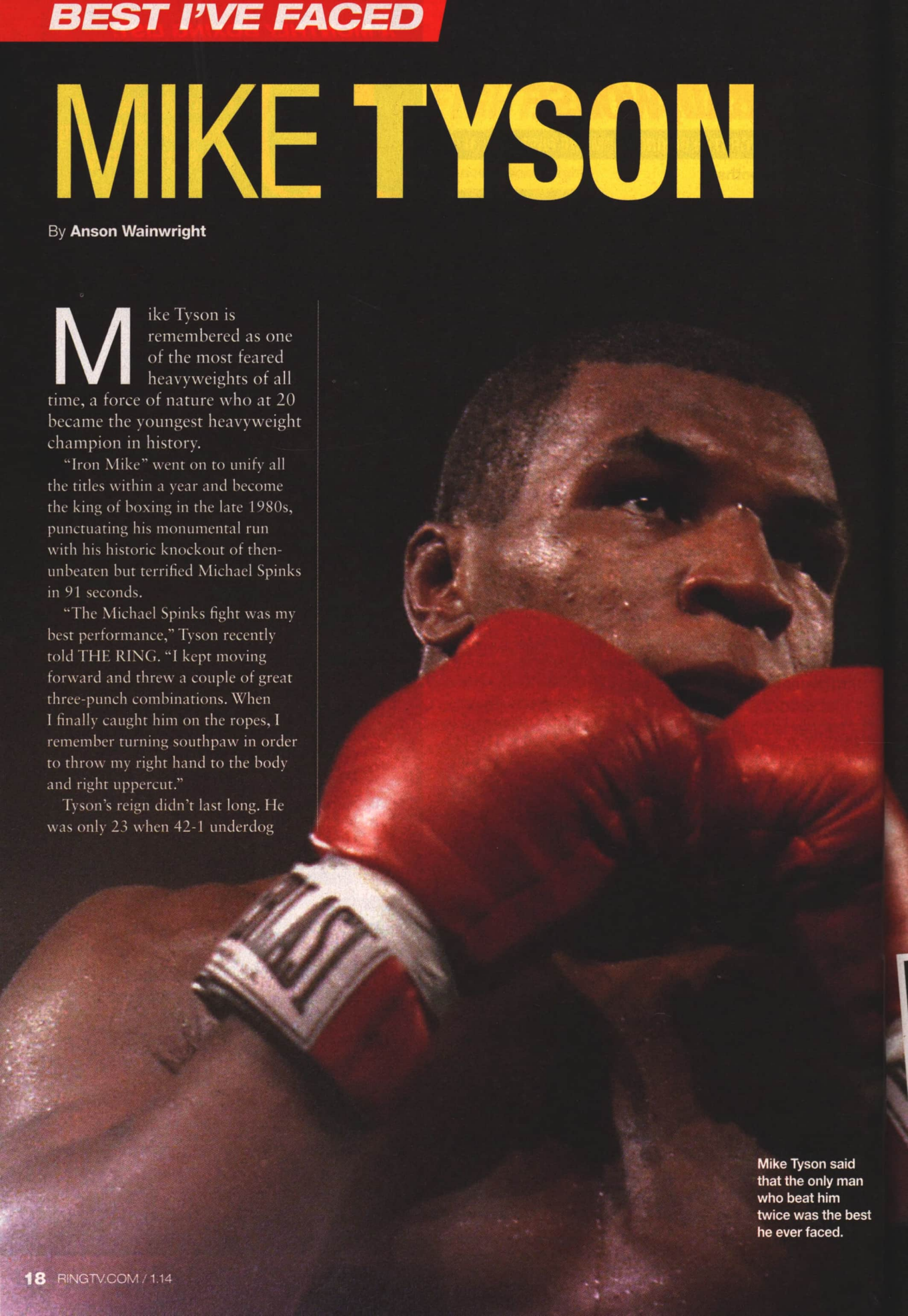
By **Anson Wainwright**

Mike Tyson is remembered as one of the most feared heavyweights of all time, a force of nature who at 20 became the youngest heavyweight champion in history.

"Iron Mike" went on to unify all the titles within a year and become the king of boxing in the late 1980s, punctuating his monumental run with his historic knockout of then-unbeaten but terrified Michael Spinks in 91 seconds.

"The Michael Spinks fight was my best performance," Tyson recently told THE RING. "I kept moving forward and threw a couple of great three-punch combinations. When I finally caught him on the ropes, I remember turning southpaw in order to throw my right hand to the body and right uppercut."

Tyson's reign didn't last long. He was only 23 when 42-1 underdog



Mike Tyson said that the only man who beat him twice was the best he ever faced.

Buster Douglas pulled off the upset of the century, scoring a 10th-round knockout in 1990 to destroy the myth of Tyson's invincibility.

And it got worse from there as his life spiralled out of control. Tyson bottomed out when he was convicted of rape in 1992 and spent three years in prison.

He returned in 1995 to great fanfare, setting box office records en route to regaining two sanctioning-body titles before losing to Evander Holyfield in 1996. The rematch the following year provided one the most infamous moments in boxing history, as Tyson was disqualified for biting off a portion of Holyfield's ear.

That combined with his prison term and crude, sometimes irrational behavior outside the ring made him a pariah in the eyes of many. Journeyman Kevin McBride stopped him in his last fight, in 2005, an ignominious ending to a remarkable career that some believed would be the last we'd see of him.

It wasn't. Tyson has reinvented himself as a kinder, gentler soul in recent years. His one-man stage show, *Undisputed Truth*, has been a success. He has a new TV show called *Being: Mike Tyson*. And he has entered the business of promoting fights.

Tyson recently acknowledged that he continues to battle demons but obviously is in a better state of mind than any of us could've imagined when he was at his worst.

"I have been through it all," Tyson said, "and I am dedicated to doing what is best for each of the talented fighters who are signing with me and my partner, Garry Jonas."

Does he have any regrets in his boxing career?

"I would have liked to fight George Foreman," he told THE RING. "There have been many fans who wondered who was the bigger puncher. I would have liked to put an end to the discussion – one way or the other."

Tyson (50-6, 44 knockouts) agreed to speak to THE RING about the best he faced in 10 key categories.

BEST OVERALL

Evander Holyfield: Great champion, chin, heart, determination, work ethic, demeanor.

BEST BOXER

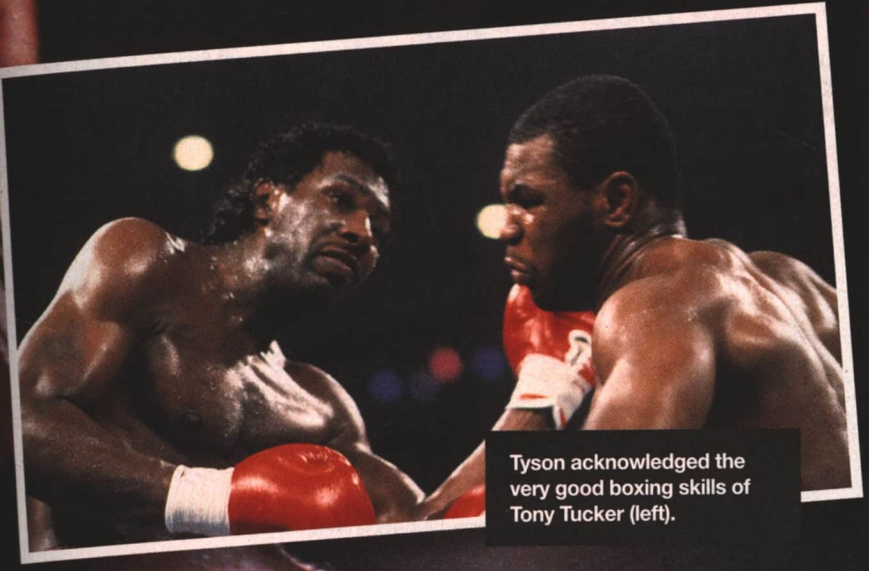
Tony Tucker: He had an excellent jab, moved well and was very tough to hit clean.

BEST JAB

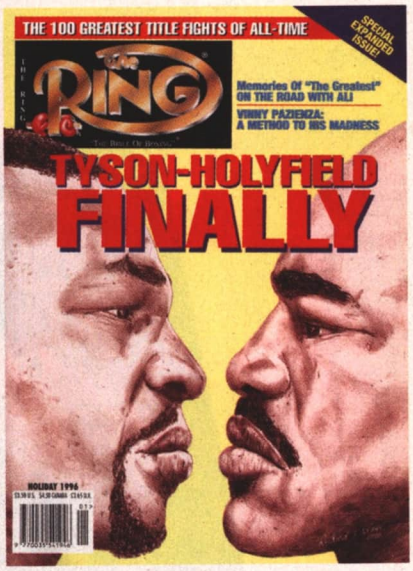
Tucker: Once again, Tony Tucker. I had to be certain to slip well to keep from getting tagged.

BEST DEFENSE

Larry Holmes: I have to say Larry Holmes even though I did win inside the distance. He was very tough to hit cleanly.



Tyson acknowledged the very good boxing skills of Tony Tucker (left).



BEST CHIN

Jose Ribalta: I hit Jose Ribalta with everything, and he took everything and kept coming back for more.

BEST PUNCHER

Holyfield: He threw terrific shots with both hands and with bad intentions.

FASTEST HANDS

Tony Tubbs: Tony Tubbs had the fastest hands. I was surprised how quick he let go with those combinations. And he was not afraid to throw them.

FASTEST FEET

Mitch Green: I think Mitch Green had the fastest feet. It was very tough to set up near him and throw big shots.

SMARTEST

Holmes: Larry Holmes was the smartest of all. It comes with being a champion for seven years.

STRONGEST

Ribalta: Jose Ribalta stood toe to toe with me. He was very strong in the clinches.

BlackBerry Torch

4Go-getters

4Great fights

The first-ever 4G BlackBerry® Torch.™
Only from AT&T.

Rethink Possible®

FREE SHIPPING | 1.866.MOBILITY – ATT.COM/TORCH

4G speeds delivered by HSPA+ with enhanced backhaul. Available in limited areas. Availability increasing with ongoing backhaul deployment. Requires 4G device. Learn more at att.com/network.

BlackBerry®, RIM®, Research In Motion®, and related trademarks, names, and logos are the property of Research In Motion Limited and are registered and/or used in the U.S. and countries around the world. Used under license from Research In Motion Limited. Screen i simulated. ©2011 AT&T Intellectual Property. Service provided by AT&T Mobility. All rights reserved. AT&T and the AT&T logo are trademarks of AT&T Intellectual Property. All other marks contained herein are the property of their respective owners.

CARD GIRL OF THE MONTH

BY HEATHER SHANHOLTZ

Stephanie Ann Cook

Height: 5 feet 6 inches

Weight: 115 pounds

Measurements: 34-26-34

Stance: Orthodox

Favorite Boxer: Muhammad Ali

Hometown: Rockford, Ill.

Current Location: Las Vegas

Where you've seen her: Corona ring girl for Showtime events, including Floyd Mayweather Jr. fights

Booking Info: Please email crowned1sac@yahoo.com or go to facebook.com/stephanieanncook89 for bookings

Stephanie Ann Cook

THE RING CARD GIRL OF THE MONTH BY: **HEATHER SHANHOLTZ**

WWW.HEATHERSHANHOLTZ.COM | WWW.TWITTER.COM/HSHANHOLTZ | WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/MODELHEATHER

DO YOU WANT TO BE A RING CARD GIRL OF THE MONTH?

submit photos and bio to **ringcardgirl@sepublications.com**

Wladimir Klitschko (left) and Alexander Povetkin got to know each other a little too intimately during their Oct. 5 fight.

CLUTCH PERFORMER

WLADIMIR KLITSCHKO WAS TYPICALLY DOMINATING AGAINST ALEXANDER POVETKIN BUT HIS LEANING AND HOLDING MADE FOR A HIDEOUS FIGHT

By **David Greisman**

Muhammad Ali once described his fabled third fight with Joe Frazier as being the "closest thing to dying that I know of." Some 38 years later, nearly to the date, two of the three best heavyweights of today produced 12 rounds of pain and suffering – but only for the fans.

Wladimir Klitschko's win over Alexander Povetkin will nevertheless go down in history, though solely for being one of the worst heavyweight bouts of an era that hasn't exactly been lacking in that category. It was a forgettable fight. If only that meant we could actually erase it

from our memories.

Klitschko has been brutal, yet boringly so, in his reign as champion. That's not his fault. It's just his style and his opponents' lack of substance. The difference between what he can do and what they cannot is so significant that he could essentially win with one hand tied behind his back, so long as he still has his jab and left hook. He bludgeons from a distance, setting up his occasional sledgehammer of a right hand. He knocks the resistance out of his opponents, then knocks most of them out.

That wasn't what we got in October in Moscow. Klitschko-Povetkin was merely figuratively brutal, thanks to Klitschko pulling out his old trick (one also used by Lennox Lewis) of using his height as a tool to lean his weight atop Povetkin while on the inside. Perhaps it was because Povetkin had more speed and posed more of a threat than most of Klitschko's foes.

Klitschko's clinching was offensive, in both definitions of the term. It was excessive and effective. At times, he literally reached out to grab and lean on Povetkin. He wore Povetkin down. He shouldn't have been allowed to. Nor should he have needed to. Klitschko very well could have won with his athleticism and skills and intelligence. Instead, this bout was more insult than assault. There wasn't excitement, just excrement.

I plant my tongue firmly in cheek when I say this: Klitschko held onto the title with a gripping performance.

Klitschko's professional accomplishment coincided with a personal one: He got engaged to his actress girlfriend, Hayden Panettiere. After he proposed, she hugged him, and he wouldn't let go for 36 minutes.

★

If you're wondering why the only two Wladimir Klitschko fights that HBO has broadcast in recent years were his wins over Povetkin and David Haye, then you must not have seen those fights.

And if you haven't seen them, don't.

★

According to Juan Manuel Marquez, he's been robbed nearly as many times as 50 Cent has been shot.

The rapper took nine bullets. The boxer is referencing six bouts: decision losses to Freddie Norwood, Chris John, Manny Pacquiao (twice), a draw with Pacquiao, and now the short end of a split verdict against Timothy Bradley.

In one way, they do resemble robberies: Marquez put his hands up and left with nothing.

Several of those six fights were close, though, and could have gone either way. It's understandable that his competitive nature and pride mean that he cannot accept the idea that someone else was better than him.

That's not to say that Marquez doesn't have a case in some of those losses for being the victor rather than the victim. Yet whenever he's not the winner, he becomes a whiner. For a man who wants to become an accountant, Marquez did a poor job of keeping track of how many rounds he actually won clearly against Bradley.

Bradley boxed smart against the ultimate smart boxer, using his speed, movement, activity and awkward style to dart and deliver and dodge. Marquez didn't perform poorly; he just wasn't able to do as well as often as Bradley.

At least Marquez doesn't want to become a banker – he's not one for extending credit.

★

The silver lining to the cloud that is the cold war between Top Rank and Golden Boy:

So long as the promoters aren't working together, we won't get a rematch between Bradley and Devon Alexander.

★

Canelo Alvarez and Julio Cesar Chavez Jr. have lots in common.

They built up sizable Mexican and Mexican-American fan bases on the basis of promotional gimmicks – Alvarez is red-headed and freckle-faced, Chavez Jr. is the namesake son of his famous fighter father. They are The Hair and The Heir.

They turned pro while still teenagers, building up gaudy records but becoming good enough (if there's such a thing) to win world titles. They each were undefeated with more than 40 victories when they took huge steps up from their previous level of competition, challenging the best fighters in their division. They each lost one-sided bouts.

It doesn't matter much that Chavez scored a hard knockdown in the final round against Sergio Martinez. Martinez outboxed him for a majority of the previous 11 rounds. Nor do the scorecards for Alvarez's fight with Floyd Mayweather Jr. indicate reality. Mayweather clearly won.

Yet while Alvarez wasn't embarrassed against

Juan Manuel Marquez has an inflated opinion of his performance against Timothy Bradley.

Mayweather, it's Chavez who continues to embarrass himself.

It's Alvarez who appears to continue to be working to improve and contend. His fans first flocked to him because of his gimmick. They've remained with him because they believe in him.

It's Chavez, meanwhile, who seemingly spends more time being a train wreck than he does training. He has the genetics and enough of the physical tools necessary to succeed. Yet he drove drunk, tested positive once for a banned diuretic and another time for marijuana, ballooned in weight, forced multiple changes to the weight limit for his bout with Bryan Vera and then benefited from being heavier in his controversial decision over Vera. And he gets away with all of this because his name still carries currency.

Chavez could still go on to face super middleweight champion Andre Ward. Alvarez will soon return against other top junior middleweights.

Beyond that, it's likely only Alvarez still has a future in the sport. Chavez would have much less of one if not for his father's past.

OUTSIDE THE ROPES

By **Brian Harty**

This is the tall and short of it: Wladimir Klitschko and Hayden Panettiere are in love.

A COMPELLING MATCHUP

Let's be frank. When we look at **Wladimir Klitschko** and **Hayden Panettiere** standing next to each other, we all think about one thing.

Panettiere is 24 and Klitschko is 37. That's not so unusual. Panettiere is a successful all-American actress and Klitschko is a successful Ukrainian prizefighter. It's an unlikely duo, maybe, but they're both bright, famous, good looking and seem like nice people, so again, not all that weird.

What splits us between awe and alarm is the obvious: Panettiere, who started in soap operas and went mainstream after her role in the TV series *Heroes*, is very small. Petite. Anywhere from 5 feet, ¼ inch to 5-foot-2, depending on who's telling. Klitschko, the reigning RING, WBA, IBF and WBO heavyweight champion, is a giant man-tank. Together they resemble a ventriloquism act. It just makes you imagine ... stuff.

But get your mind out of the gutter! That's all private between Hayden and "Dr. ... (ahem) ... Steelhammer." Those two are in love! And they made it official in October, four days after Klitschko hugged his way to a different sort of win against **Alexander Povetkin**, when Panettiere showed up on *Live With Kelly and Michael* with her finger adorned with a diamond the size of a Corn Nut (or Grape-Nut, if you're Wladimir) and confirmed that they are engaged to be married. A date hadn't yet been set.

Middleweight champ **Sergio Martinez** presented **Pope Francis** with an honorary WBC belt and later sat down for a private audience with the pontiff in Vatican City – the first pro boxer to do so since **Muhammad Ali** met with **Pope John Paul II** in 1982. Beforehand, Martinez called the meeting with his fellow Argentine a dream come true, and said he hoped to discuss his campaigns against childhood bullying and domestic violence, as well as ask for "blessings and spiritual protection to all of those who enter the ring."

Producer **Anthony Lawrence Dash** lost his $150,000 copyright lawsuit against **Floyd Mayweather Jr.**, in which he claimed Mayweather had stolen a beat for his walk-in music during a WWE matchup with **the Big Show** in 2008.

Miguel Cotto also came up short in court, which might've had something to do with the rage he unleashed on **Delvin Rodriguez** a few days later. **Evangelista Cotto**, Miguel's uncle and former trainer, was dismissed from the fighter's camp following a brawl in 2009 but sued for a portion of his nephew's earnings and was awarded $2 million in 2012. Miguel lost the appeal.

Cotto offered his support, however, to **Orlando Cruz**, who angered some fans when he announced his plans to wear a rainbow-ized Puerto Rican flag on his trunks for the fight with **Orlando Salido** on Oct. 12. Cruz, who had attracted media attention for being openly gay, lost the fight but wore the trunks. The sun successfully rose the next morning.

Cruiserweight **Guillermo Jones** was stripped of his title and retroactively suspended by the WBA for a positive diuretic test following his May 17 win over **Denis Lebedev** in Russia. A rematch is in the works, but Lebedev will get the title in the meantime. ...

Junior featherweight **Francisco "Frankie" Leal** died of his injuries in a San Diego hospital three days after being knocked out by **Raul Hirales** on Oct. 19 in Mexico. The Hirales fight was the fifth since Leal had been taken from the ring on a stretcher after another brutal KO, at the hands of **Evgeny Gradovich** in Texas. Leal was 26.

In **Norway**, where professional boxing has been outlawed since 1981, incoming government electees say they intend to lift the ban, though bouts will be limited to 12 minutes and fighters will be required to wear headgear.

And staying in Scandinavia for an update: Swedish star **Frida Wallberg** announced via Facebook in late September that she had gotten "spaghetti legs" and collapsed during rehabilitation exercises. The former junior lightweight titleholder was knocked out by **Diana Prazak** in June and was immediately taken to the hospital, where she spent the next day in a coma following surgery for a cerebral hemorrhage. Though her boxing career is over, Wallberg said she'll continue to train under her doctors' advice, albeit at a slower pace.

As a heartening footnote, female MMA star **Ronda Rousey** rallied her Armbar Nation with an auction that raised more than $2,000 to support Wallberg's recovery.

See? MMA and boxing can get along.

"The Bible Of Boxing"®

The RING

ringtv.com®

RingTV.com gives you on a daily basis what the THE RING magazine gives you each month – the best boxing coverage in the world.

Here are just a few of the many features on RingTV.com:

The most-complete day-to-day coverage of the boxing world, including news, award-winning feature stories and photos, unparalleled previews and live fight coverage.

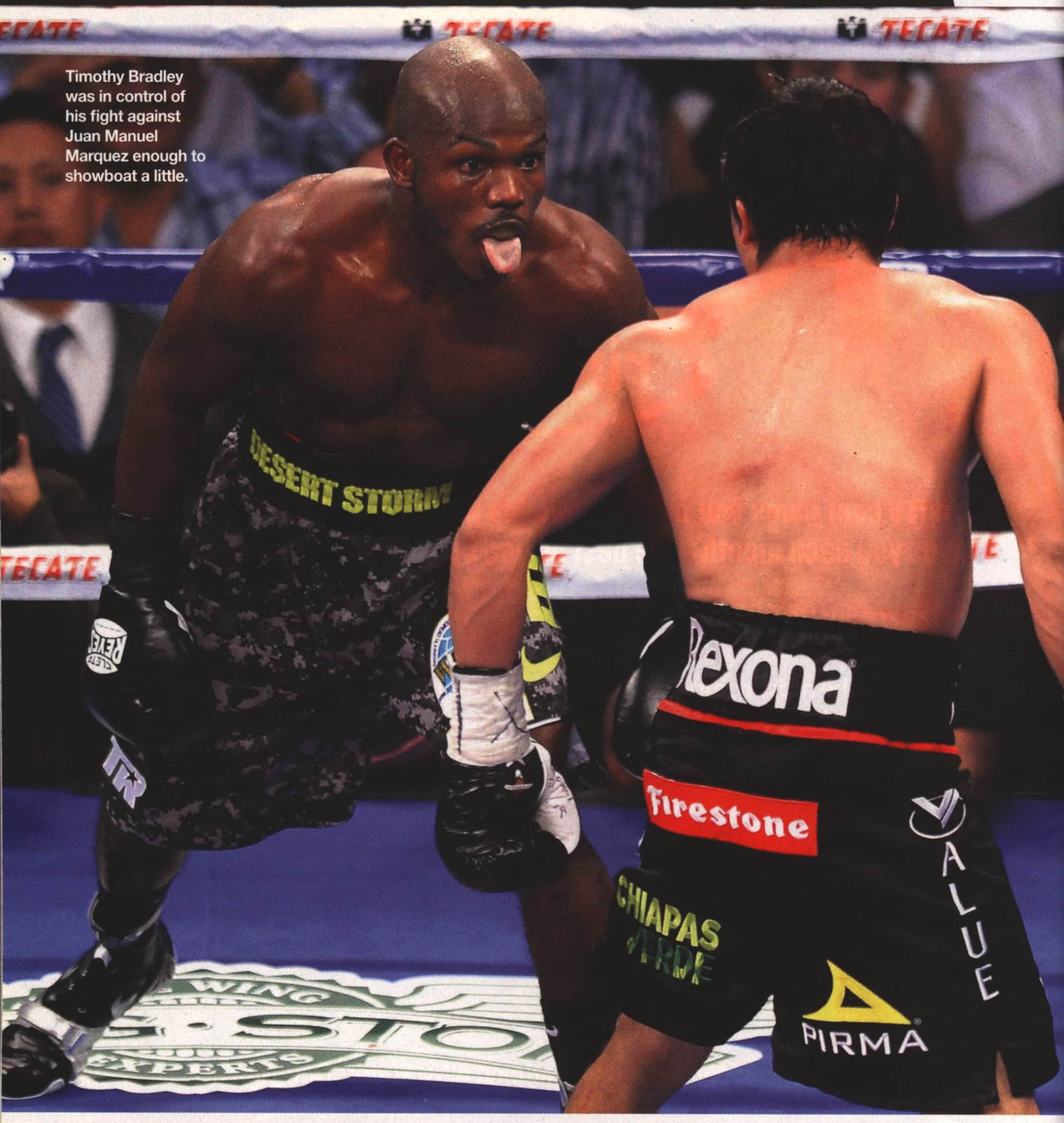
The world's most-respected ratings in all 17 weight classes and pound for pound updated every week.

Live streams of fight cards, weigh-ins, interviews and more.

RingTV, our periodic show featuring RING Editors Doug Fischer and Michael Rosenthal, in which we review past fights and look forward to upcoming events.

High-quality videos of a variety of events and interviews with the biggest names in the sport.

Up-to-date schedule of major boxing cards.



Timothy Bradley was in control of his fight against Juan Manuel Marquez enough to showboat a little.

FIGHTER OF THE MONTH

TIMOTHY BRADLEY

By **Michael Rosenthal**

Timothy Bradley just wants to be considered one of the best fighters in the world. He earned that distinction on Oct. 12.

Bradley received backlash, not credit, after he outpointed Manny Pacquiao in a fight most people believe the Filipino star won in June 2012. And while his victory over Ruslan Provodnikov this past March

was immensely entertaining, it was Bradley's resilience more than his ability that stood out.

Against Juan Manuel Marquez, Bradley simply outboxed THE RING's No. 3-rated fighter pound for pound to claim without controversy a split-decision victory and his place among the best in the business.

Bradley (31-0, 12 knockouts) used his jab and quick feet to control most of the fight, moving in and out to land scoring blows and keep Marquez (55-7-1, 40 KOs) off balance. Then, when Marquez adjusted and became more effective, Bradley got enough done to preserve the victory.

And it definitely wasn't controversial even if you were one of the few who believe Marquez eked out a victory. Patricia Morse Jarman and Robert Hoyle scored it 116-112 and 115-113 for Bradley while Glenn Feldman had it 115-113 for Marquez.

The following Monday, Bradley jumped from No. 8 to No. 3 on the pound-for-pound list.

"I feel that I'm finally going to get my just due," Bradley said afterward. "I feel that I am finally one of the best fighters in the world. And the fact that everybody thought that I won the fight, that's fantastic."

Of course the future has never been brighter for the "Desert Storm," a nickname derived from his hometown of Palm Springs, Calif. Up next could be the winner of Pacquiao-Brandon Rios or Provodnikov again or even Floyd Mayweather Jr. if the rival promoters can somehow come to an agreement.

All of the above big-money fights would be compelling in part because Bradley, a legitimate pound-for-pounder, would be one of the principals. RING

POUND FOR POUND: Timothy Bradley (No. 8 last month) has been telling us all along how good he is. He illustrated the point beautifully with a split-decision win over Juan Manuel Marquez on Oct. 12. Marquez gave up his No. 3 spot to Bradley and fell to No. 6, while Manny Pacquiao (No. 6 last month) and Adrien Broner (No. 7) both dropped a notch.

HEAVYWEIGHTS: Wladimir Klitschko (champion last month and every month since June 2009) crushed Alexander Povetkin (No. 1 last month), literally, on his way to a tedious UD win. Povetkin dropped to No. 2, pushing David Haye down a notch, and Kubrat Pulev (No. 3 last month) became the new No. 1. Ruslan Chagaev replaced Tony Thompson at No. 10 after a decision win over Jovo Pudar (unrated).

CRUISERWEIGHTS: Unrated Russian Grigory Drozd knocked out Mateusz Masternak (No. 6 at the time) in the 11th round and took his spot in the ratings. Masternak dropped to No. 10, ousting Thabiso Mchunu. Panamanian Guillermo Jones (No. 3 last month) was dropped from the list after the WBA officially stripped him for a positive drug test following a May victory over Denis Lebedev (No. 5 last month) in Russia. Lebedev claimed the No. 3 spot (and the title), raising Nos. 6-10 one notch each and leaving room for Mchunu to return.

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS: Division champ Adonis Stevenson showed he has more than just a big punch, thoroughly outboxing and then stopping Tavoris Cloud, who fell from No. 3 to No. 5.

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS: No change.

MIDDLEWEIGHTS: Julio Cesar Chavez Jr. (No. 6 last month) was dropped after he proved himself unable to make even 168 pounds against Bryan Vera. Everyone below him moved up a notch, and New Yorker Curtis Stevens filled in at No. 10. Later, Hassan N'Dam N'Jikam (No. 9 last month) was removed for inactivity, and Ukrainian Max Bursak entered at No. 10.

JUNIOR MIDDLEWEIGHTS: Miguel Cotto (No. 4 last month) swapped spots with No. 3 Erislandy Lara after knocking out Delvin Rodriguez (unrated) less than nine minutes after the opening bell.

WELTERWEIGHTS: Bradley (No. 4 last month) earned the No. 1 spot and a lot of overdue credit with his skillful decision win over Marquez. Marquez, Pacquiao and Kell Brook (Nos. 1-3 last month) each dropped a spot.

JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHTS: Ruslan Provodnikov (No. 6 last month) showed a zest for demolition in his 10th-round TKO of an all-heart Mike Alvarado (No. 3 at the time). Provodnikov jumped to No. 2 and Alvarado fell to No. 4 behind Amir Khan.

LIGHTWEIGHTS: No change.

JUNIOR LIGHTWEIGHTS: No change.

FEATHERWEIGHTS: No change.

JUNIOR FEATHERWEIGHTS: Scott Quigg dropped from No. 5 to No. 8 after a draw with unrated Cuban Yoandris Salinas, which moved Vic Darchinyan, Kiko Martinez and Victor Terrazas up a spot each. Carl Frampton (No. 3 last month) rose to No. 2 with a sixth-round knockout of unrated Frenchman Jeremy Parodi.

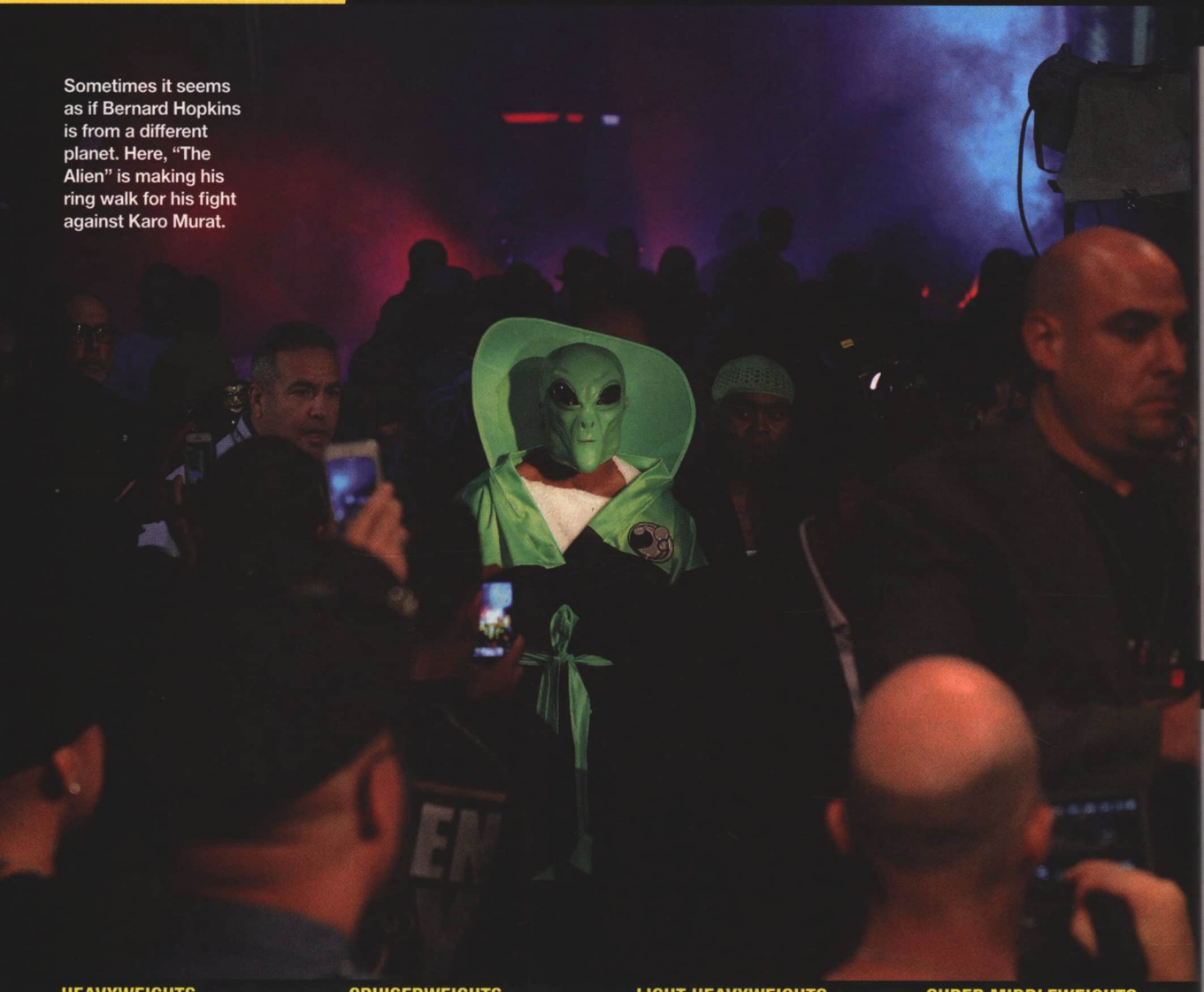
BANTAMWEIGHTS: No change.

JUNIOR BANTAMWEIGHTS: No change.

FLYWEIGHTS: Juan Carlos Reveco (No. 8 last month) rose to No. 7 after defending his WBA title with a shutout eight-round technical decision over Ricardo Nunez (unrated).

JUNIOR FLYWEIGHTS: No change.

STRAWWEIGHTS: No change.



Sometimes it seems as if Bernard Hopkins is from a different planet. Here, "The Alien" is making his ring walk for his fight against Karo Murat.

HEAVYWEIGHTS
WEIGHT UNLIMITED

- **C** **WLADIMIR KLITSCHKO** Ukraine | 61-3-0 (51 KOs)
- **1.** **KUBRAT PULEV** Bulgaria | 18-0-0 (9 KOs)
- **2.** **ALEXANDER POVETKIN** Russia | 26-1-0 (18 KOs)
- **3.** **DAVID HAYE** U.K. | 26-2-0 (24 KOs)
- **4.** **TOMASZ ADAMEK** Poland | 49-2-0 (29 KOs)
- **5.** **BERMANE STIVERNE** Canada | 23-1-1 (20 KOs)
- **6.** **TYSON FURY** U.K. | 21-0-0 (15 KOs)
- **7.** **ROBERT HELENIUS** Finland | 19-0-0 (11 KOs)
- **8.** **CHRIS ARREOLA** U.S. | 36-3-0 (31 KOs)
- **9.** **ODLANIER SOLIS** Cuba | 20-1-0 (13 KOs)
- **10.** **RUSLAN CHAGAEV** Uzbekistan | 32-2-1 (20 KOs)

CRUISERWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 200 LBS

- **C** **YOAN PABLO HERNANDEZ** Cuba | 27-1-0 (13 KOs)
- **1.** **MARCO HUCK** Germany | 36-2-1 (25 KOs)
- **2.** **KRZYSZTOF WLODARCZYK** Poland | 48-2-1 (34 KOs)
- **3.** **DENIS LEBEDEV** Russia | 25-2-0 (19 KOs)
- **4.** **OLA AFOLABI** U.K. | 19-3-4 (9 KOs)
- **5.** **GRIGORY DROZD** Russia | 37-1-0 (26 KOs)
- **6.** **ILUNGA MAKUBA** Congo | 15-1-0 (14 KOs)
- **7.** **FIRAT ARSLAN** Germany | 33-6-2 (21 KOs)
- **8.** **DMYTRO KUCHER** Ukraine | 21-1-0 (15 KOs)
- **9.** **MATEUSZ MASTERNAK** Poland | 30-1-0 (22 KOs)
- **10.** **THABISO MCHUNU** South Africa | 14-1-0 (10 KOs)

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 175 LBS

- **C** **ADONIS STEVENSON** Canada | 22-1-0 (19 KOs)
- **1.** **BERNARD HOPKINS** U.S. | 53-6-2 (32 KOs)
- **2.** **SERGEY KOVALEV** Russia | 22-0-1 (20 KOs)
- **3.** **NATHAN CLEVERLY** U.K. | 26-1-0 (12 KOs)
- **4.** **CHAD DAWSON** U.S. | 31-3-0 (17 KOs)
- **5.** **TAVORIS CLOUD** U.S. | 24-2-0 (19 KOs)
- **6.** **KARO MURAT** Germany | 25-1-1 (15 KOs)
- **7.** **TONY BELLEW** U.K. | 20-1-1 (12 KOs)
- **8.** **ISAAC CHILEMBA** Malawi | 20-2-2 (9 KOs)
- **9.** **JUERGEN BRAEHMER** Germany | 41-2-0 (31 KOs)
- **10.** **JEAN PASCAL** Canada | 28-2-1 (17 KOs)

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 168 LBS

- **C** **ANDRE WARD** U.S. | 26-0-0 (14 KOs)
- **1.** **CARL FROCH** U.K. | 31-2-0 (22 KOs)
- **2.** **MIKKEL KESSLER** Denmark | 46-3-0 (35 KOs)
- **3.** **LUCIAN BUTE** Romania | 31-1-0 (24 KOs)
- **4.** **ROBERT STIEGLITZ** Russia | 46-3-0 (26 KOs)
- **5.** **GEORGE GROVES** U.K. | 19-0-0 (15 KOs)
- **6.** **ARTHUR ABRAHAM** Armenia | 37-4-0 (28 KOs)
- **7.** **EDWIN RODRIGUEZ** Dominican Rep. | 24-0-0 (16 KOs)
- **8.** **THOMAS OOSTHUIZEN** South Africa | 21-0-2 (13 KOs)
- **9.** **SAKIO BIKA** Cameroon | 32-5-2 (21 KOs)
- **10.** **JAMES DEGALE** U.K. | 16-1-0 (11 KOs)

MIDDLEWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 160 LBS

C **SERGIO MARTINEZ**
Argentina | 51-2-2 (28 KOs)

1. **GENNADY GOLOVKIN**
Kazakhstan | 27-0-0 (24 KOs)
2. **DARREN BARKER**
U.K. | 26-1-0 (16 KOs)
3. **DANIEL GEALE**
Australia | 29-2-0 (15 KOs)
4. **FELIX STURM**
Germany | 38-3-2 (17 KOs)
5. **PETER QUILLIN**
U.S. | 29-0-0 (21 KOs)
6. **MARTIN MURRAY**
U.K. | 25-1-1 (11 KOs)
7. **MATTHEW MACKLIN**
U.K. | 29-5-0 (20 KOs)
8. **MARCO ANTONIO RUBIO**
Mexico | 58-6-1 (50 KOs)
9. **CURTIS STEVENS**
U.S. | 25-3-0 (18 KOs)
10. **MAX BURSAK**
Ukraine | 28-1-1 (12 KOs)

JR. MIDDLEWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 154 LBS

C **FLOYD MAYWEATHER JR.**
U.S. | 45-0-0 (26 KOs)

1. **SAUL ALVAREZ**
Mexico | 42-1-1 (30 KOs)
2. **AUSTIN TROUT**
U.S. | 26-1-0 (14 KOs)
3. **MIGUEL COTTO**
Puerto Rico | 38-4-0 (31 KOs)
4. **ERISLANDY LARA**
Cuba | 18-1-2 (12 KOs)
5. **VANES MARTIROSYAN**
U.S. | 33-0-1 (21 KOs)
6. **CARLOS MOLINA**
Mexico | 22-5-2 (6 KOs)
7. **ZAURBEK BAYSANGUROV**
Russia | 28-1-0 (20 KOs)
8. **DEMETRIUS ANDRADE**
U.S. | 19-0-0 (13 KOs)
9. **WILLIE NELSON**
U.S. | 21-1-1 (12 KOs)
10. **ISHE SMITH**
U.S. | 25-6-0 (11 KOs)

WELTERWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 147 LBS

C **FLOYD MAYWEATHER JR.**
U.S. | 45-0-0 (26 KOs)

1. **TIMOTHY BRADLEY**
U.S. | 31-0-0 (12 KOs)
2. **JUAN MANUEL MARQUEZ**
Mexico | 55-7-1 (40 KOs)
3. **MANNY PACQUIAO**
Philippines | 54-5-2 (38 KOs)
4. **KELL BROOK**
U.K. | 30-0-0 (20 KOs)
5. **DEVON ALEXANDER**
U.S. | 25-1-0 (14 KOs)
6. **ROBERT GUERRERO**
U.S. | 31-2-1 (18 KOs)
7. **ADRIEN BRONER**
U.S. | 27-0-0 (22 KOs)
8. **KEITH THURMAN**
U.S. | 21-0-0 (19 KOs)
9. **PAULIE MALIGNAGGI**
U.S. | 32-5-0 (7 KOs)
10. **MARCOS MAIDANA**
Argentina | 34-3-0 (31 KOs)

JR. WELTERWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 140 LBS

C **DANNY GARCIA**
U.S. | 27-0-0 (16 KOs)

1. **LUCAS MATTHYSSE**
Argentina | 34-3-0 (32 KOs)
2. **RUSLAN PROVODNIKOV**
Russia | 23-2-0 (16 KOs)
3. **AMIR KHAN**
U.K. | 28-3-0 (19 KOs)
4. **MIKE ALVARADO**
U.S. | 34-2-0 (23 KOs)
5. **LAMONT PETERSON**
U.S. | 31-2-1 (16 KOs)
6. **ZAB JUDAH**
U.S. | 42-8-0 (29 KOs)
7. **BRANDON RIOS**
U.S. | 31-1-1 (23 KOs)
8. **KHABIB ALLAKHVERDIEV**
Russia | 19-0-0 (9 KOs)
9. **DIERRY JEAN**
Canada | 25-0-0 (17 KOs)
10. **VIKTOR POSTOL**
Ukraine | 24-0-0 (10 KOs)

LIGHTWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 135 LBS

C **VACANT**

1. **ADRIEN BRONER**
U.S. | 27-0-0 (22 KOs)
2. **MIGUEL VAZQUEZ**
Mexico | 33-3-0 (13 KOs)
3. **RICHAR ABRIL**
Cuba | 18-3-1 (8 KOs)
4. **RICKY BURNS**
U.K. | 36-2-1 (11 KOs)
5. **RAYMUNDO BELTRAN**
Mexico | 28-6-1 (17 KOs)
6. **ANTONIO DEMARCO**
Mexico | 29-3-1 (22 KOs)
7. **SHARIF BOGERE**
Uganda | 23-1-0 (15 KOs)
8. **KEVIN MITCHELL**
U.K. | 35-2-0 (25 KOs)
9. **DANIEL ESTRADA**
Mexico | 31-2-1 (23 KOs)
10. **TERENCE CRAWFORD**
U.S. | 22-0-0 (16 KOs)

JR. LIGHTWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 130 LBS

C **VACANT**

1. **TAKASHI UCHIYAMA**
Japan | 20-0-1 (17 KOs)
2. **ROMAN MARTINEZ**
Puerto Rico | 27-1-2 (16 KOs)
3. **ARGENIS MENDEZ**
Dominican Rep. | 21-2-1 (11 KOs)
4. **JUAN CARLOS BURGOS**
Mexico | 30-1-2 (20 KOs)
5. **DIEGO MAGDALENO**
U.S. | 24-1-0 (9 KOs)
6. **TAKASHI MIURA**
Japan | 26-2-2 (19 KOs)
7. **JUAN CARLOS SALGADO**
Mexico | 26-2-1 (16 KOs)
8. **TAKAHIRO AO**
Japan | 24-3-1 (11 KOs)
9. **WILL TOMLINSON**
Australia | 21-0-1 (12 KOs)
10. **SERGIO THOMPSON**
Mexico | 27-3-0 (25 KOs)

FEATHERWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 126 LBS

C **MIKEY GARCIA**
U.S. | 32-0-0 (27 KOs)

1. **CHRIS JOHN**
Indonesia | 48-0-3 (22 KOs)
2. **JHONNY GONZALEZ**
Mexico | 55-8-0 (47 KOs)
3. **ORLANDO SALIDO**
Mexico | 40-12-2 (28 KOs)
4. **ABNER MARES**
Mexico | 26-1-1 (14 KOs)
5. **DANIEL PONCE DE LEON**
Mexico | 44-5-0 (35 KOs)
6. **EVGENY GRADOVICH**
Russia | 17-0-0 (8 KOs)
7. **BILLY DIB**
Australia | 36-2-0 (21 KOs)
8. **NICHOLAS WALTERS**
Jamaica | 22-0-0 (18 KOs)
9. **JAVIER FORTUNA**
Dominican Rep. | 22-0-1 (16 KOs)
10. **HOZUMI HASEGAWA**
Japan | 33-4-0 (15 KOs)

JR. FEATHERWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 122 LBS

C **GUILLERMO RIGONDEAUX**
Cuba | 12-0-0 (8 KOs)

1. **NONITO DONAIRE**
Philippines | 31-2-0 (20 KOs)
2. **CARL FRAMPTON**
U.K. | 17-0-0 (12 KOs)
3. **JEFFREY MATHEBULA**
South Africa | 27-4-2 (14 KOs)
4. **LEO SANTA CRUZ**
U.S. | 25-0-1 (15 KOs)
5. **VIC DARCHINYAN**
Armenia | 39-5-1 (28 KOs)
6. **KIKO MARTINEZ**
Spain | 29-4-0 (21 KOs)
7. **VICTOR TERRAZAS**
Mexico | 37-3-1 (21 KOs)
8. **SCOTT QUIGG**
U.K. | 26-0-2 (19 KOs)
9. **CRISTIAN MIJARES**
Mexico | 48-7-2 (23 KOs)
10. **JHONATAN ROMERO**
Colombia | 23-1-0 (12 KOs)

HOW OUR RATINGS ARE COMPILED

Championship vacancies can be filled in the following two ways: 1. THE RING's Nos. 1 and 2 contenders fight one another; 2. If the Nos. 1 and 2 contenders chose not to fight one another and either of them fights No. 3, No. 4 or No. 5, the winner may be awarded THE RING belt if the Editorial Board deems the contenders worthy.

A champion can lose his belt in six situations: 1. The Champion loses a fight in the weight class in which he is champion; 2. The Champion moves to another weight class; 3. The Champion does not schedule a fight in any weight class for 18 months; 4. The Champion does not schedule a fight at his championship weight for 18 months (even if he fights at another weight); 5. The Champion does not schedule a fight with a Top-5 contender from any weight class for two years; 6. The Champion retires.

THE RING Ratings Chairman Chuck Giampa considers input from the Ratings Panel of boxing journalists from around the world but has final say on all changes. That applies to both the pound-for-pound and divisional ratings.

Records provided by boxrec.com

RATINGS

BANTAMWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 118 LBS

C VACANT

1. **ANSELMO MORENO**
Panama | 34-2-1 (12 KOs)
2. **SHINSUKE YAMANAKA**
Japan | 19-0-2 (14 KOs)
3. **KOKI KAMEDA**
Japan | 31-1-0 (17 KOs)
4. **MALCOLM TUNACAO**
Philippines | 33-3-3 (20 KOs)
5. **HUGO RUIZ**
Mexico | 33-2-0 (29 KOs)
6. **JOSEPH AGBEKO**
Ghana | 29-4-0 (22 KOs)
7. **JAMIE MCDONNELL**
U.K. | 21-2-1 (9 KOs)
8. **JULIO CEJA**
Mexico | 25-1-0 (23 KOs)
9. **TOMOKI KAMEDA**
Japan | 28-0-0 (18 KOs)
10. **PAULUS AMBUNDA**
Namibia | 20-1-0 (10 KOs)

JR. BANTAMWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 115 LBS

C VACANT

1. **OMAR NARVAEZ**
Argentina | 40-1-2 (21 KOs)
2. **JUAN CARLOS SANCHEZ JR.**
Mexico | 17-1-1 (9 KOs)
3. **CARLOS CUADRAS**
Mexico | 28-0-0 (23 KOs)
4. **SRISAKET SOR RUNGVISAI**
Thailand | 22-3-1 (20 KOs)
5. **TEPPARITH SINGWANCHA**
Thailand | 24-3-0 (14 KOs)
6. **RYO AKAHO**
Japan | 20-1-2 (13 KOs)
7. **ARTHUR VILLANUEVA**
Philippines | 23-0-0 (13 KOs)
8. **OLEYDONG SITHSAMERCHAI**
Thailand | 50-1-1 (17 KOs)
9. **FELIPE ORUCUTA**
Mexico | 28-2-0 (23 KOs)
10. **DAIKI KAMEDA**
Japan | 29-3-0 (18 KOs)

FLYWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 112 LBS

C AKIRA YAEGASHI
Japan | 18-3-0 (9 KOs)

1. **JUAN FRANCISCO ESTRADA**
Mexico | 25-2-0 (18 KOs)
2. **BRIAN VILORIA**
U.S. | 32-4-0 (19 KOs)
3. **HERNAN MARQUEZ**
Mexico | 36-3-0 (26 KOs)
4. **MORUTI MTHALANE**
S. Africa | 29-2-0 (20 KOs)
5. **EDGAR SOSA**
Mexico | 49-7-0 (29 KOs)
6. **TOSHIYUKI IGARASHI**
Japan | 18-2-1 (11 KOs)
7. **JUAN CARLOS REVECO**
Argentina | 32-1-0 (17 KOs)
8. **MILAN MELINDO**
Philippines | 29-1-0 (12 KOs)
9. **ROCKY FUENTES**
Philippines | 35-6-2 (20 KOs)
10. **LUIS CONCEPCION**
Panama | 30-3-0 (22 KOs)

JR. FLYWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 108 LBS

C VACANT

1. **ROMAN GONZALEZ**
Nicaragua | 36-0-0 (30 KOs)
2. **DONNIE NIETES**
Philippines | 31-1-4 (17 KOs)
3. **MOISES FUENTES**
Mexico | 18-1-1 (9 KOs)
4. **KAZUTO IOKA**
Japan | 13-0-0 (9 KOs)
5. **ADRIAN HERNANDEZ**
Mexico | 28-2-1 (17 KOs)
6. **JOHNRIEL CASIMERO**
Philippines | 18-2-0 (10 KOs)
7. **PEDRO GUEVARA**
Mexico | 20-1-1 (13 KOs)
8. **FELIX ALVARADO**
Nicaragua | 18-0-0 (15 KOs)
9. **ALBERTO ROSSEL**
Peru | 31-8-0 (13 KOs)
10. **NAOYA INOUE**
Japan | 4-0-0 (3 KOs)

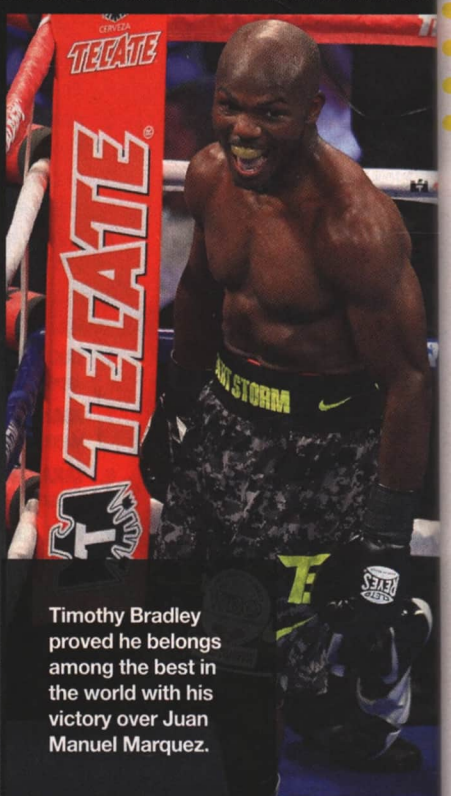
STRAWWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 105 LBS

C VACANT

1. **WANHENG MENAYOTHIN**
Thailand | 30-0-0 (10 KOs)
2. **HEKKIE BUDLER**
South Africa | 23-1-0 (6 KOs)
3. **XIONG ZHAO ZHONG**
China | 21-4-1 (11 KOs)
4. **DENVER CUELLO**
Philippines | 33-5-6 (21 KOs)
5. **KATSUNARI TAKAYAMA**
Japan | 25-6-0 (10 KOs)
6. **RYO MIYAZAKI**
Japan | 20-0-3 (11 KOs)
7. **CARLOS BUITRAGO**
Nicaragua | 27-0-0 (16 KOs)
8. **MERLITO SABILLO**
Philippines | 23-0-0 (12 KOs)
9. **JESUS SILVESTRE**
Mexico | 27-4-0 (20 KOs)
10. **RYUJI HARA**
Japan | 15-0-0 (10 KOs)

POUND FOR POUND

1. **FLOYD MAYWEATHER JR.**
U.S. | 45-0-0 (26 KOs) | WELTERWEIGHT/ JR. MIDDLEWEIGHT
2. **ANDRE WARD**
U.S. | 26-0-0 (14 KOs) | SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHT
3. **TIMOTHY BRADLEY**
U.S. | 31-0-0 (12 KOs) | WELTERWEIGHT
4. **WLADIMIR KLITSCHKO**
Ukraine | 61-3-0 (51 KOs) | HEAVYWEIGHT
5. **SERGIO MARTINEZ**
Argentina | 51-2-2 (28 KOs) | MIDDLEWEIGHT
6. **JUAN MANUEL MARQUEZ**
Mexico | 55-7-1 (40 KOs) | WELTERWEIGHT
7. **MANNY PACQUIAO**
Philippines | 54-5-2 (38 KOs) | WELTERWEIGHT
8. **ADRIEN BRONER**
U.S. | 27-0-0 (22 KOs) | LIGHTWEIGHT/WELTERWEIGHT
9. **SAUL ALVAREZ**
Mexico | 42-1-1 (30 KOs) | JR. MIDDLEWEIGHT
10. **GUILLERMO RIGONDEAUX**
Cuba | 12-0-0 (8 KOs) | JR. FEATHERWEIGHT



Timothy Bradley proved he belongs among the best in the world with his victory over Juan Manuel Marquez.

THE RING POLICY ON RATED BOXERS WHO TEST POSITIVE FOR PERFORMANCE-ENHANCING DRUGS

THE RING will remove from its ratings any rated boxer — including a champion — if such boxer at some point undergoes drug testing (Olympic-style or otherwise) and that boxer tests positive for a performance-enhancing drug.

In the event that a boxer has undergone testing in which the boxer provides two samples ("A" and "B") and the boxer's "A" and subsequent "B" samples test positive for a performance-enhancing drug or if his "A" sample tests positive and he waives his right to have the "B" sample tested then the boxer shall immediately be removed from the ratings.

A boxer whose "A" sample tested positive and is awaiting the results of his "B" sample will not be allowed to fight for a championship or rise in the ratings.

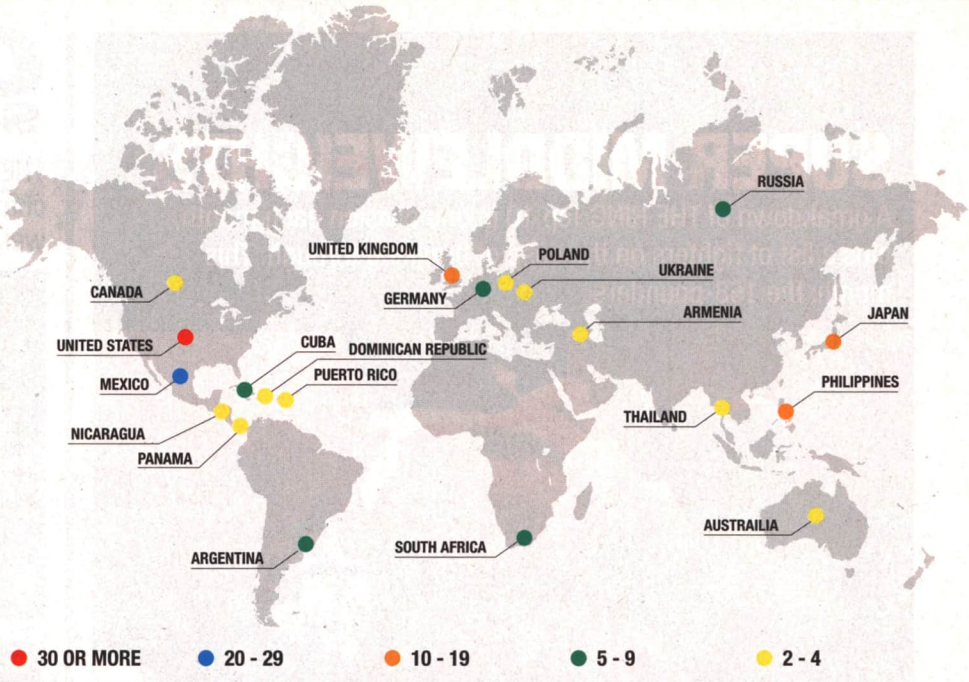
A boxer who is removed because of a positive test will have the opportunity to earn his way back into the ratings after any suspension period is completed.

A boxer who is dropped also may be reinstated if the testing agency subsequently reverses its decision or a court of competent jurisdiction finds that the test result was invalid.

RATED FIGHTERS BY COUNTRY

UNITED STATES	31 *	
MEXICO	29	↓1
UNITED KINGDOM	18	
JAPAN	16	
PHILIPPINES	10	
RUSSIA	9	↑1
ARGENTINA	5	
CUBA	5	
GERMANY	5	
SOUTH AFRICA	5	
CANADA	4	
THAILAND	4	
UKRAINE	4	↑1
AUSTRALIA	3	
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	3	
NICARAGUA	3	
POLAND	3	
ARMENIA	2	
PANAMA	2	↓1
PUERTO RICO	2	
BULGARIA	1	
CAMEROON	1	
CHINA	1	
COLOMBIA	1	
CONGO	1	
DENMARK	1	
FINLAND	1	
GHANA	1	
INDONESIA	1	
JAMAICA	1	
KAZAKHSTAN	1	
MALAWI	1	
NAMIBIA	1	
PERU	1	
ROMANIA	1	
SPAIN	1	
UGANDA	1	
UZBEKISTAN	1	

** Includes two ratings for Floyd Mayweather Jr. (junior middleweight and welterweight) and Adrien Broner (welterweight and lightweight).*



EAST VS. WEST

The West Coast appears to be the hub of boxing in the U.S., with Los Angeles producing many elite fighters and Las Vegas still the city of big fights. However, the East Coast, with a strong boxing tradition, also turns out a large number of good fighters. Here's how the regions compare, divided by the Mississippi River.

DIVISION	WEST	EAST
HEAVYWEIGHTS	1	0
CRUISERWEIGHTS	0	0
LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS	0	3
SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS	1	0
MIDDLEWEIGHTS	0	2
JUNIOR MIDDLEWEIGHTS	3	2
WELTERWEIGHTS	3	4
JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHTS	2	3
LIGHTWEIGHTS	1	0
JUNIOR LIGHTWEIGHTS	1	0
FEATHERWEIGHTS	1	0
JUNIOR FEATHERWEIGHTS	1	0
BANTAMWEIGHTS	0	0
JUNIOR BANTAMWEIGHTS	0	0
FLYWEIGHTS	1	0
JUNIOR FLYWEIGHTS	0	0
STRAWWEIGHTS	0	0
TOTAL	15	14

Note: Floyd Mayweather Jr. and Adrien Broner were rated in two divisions at press time. However, we counted them only in their primary divisions.

DIVISION DOMINANCE

Which country has the most rated fighters (or tied for the most) in the highest number of divisions? No contest. It's Mexico. Here's how it breaks down.

- **7** MEXICO (135 POUNDS, 130, 126, 122, 115, 112 AND 108)
- **4** U.K. (HEAVYWEIGHT, 168, 160 AND 122)
- **4** U.S. (175, 154, 147 AND 140)
- **3** JAPAN (130, 118 AND 105)
- **1** GERMANY (200)
- **1** POLAND (200)
- **1** RUSSIA (200)
- **1** THAILAND (115)

New IBF titleholder Carlos Molina represents Mexico in the junior middleweight division.

FOCUS ON . . .

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS

A breakdown of THE RING Top 10 in one division each month, plus a list of fighters on the cusp of breaking through. This month: the 168-pounders.

James DeGale is a relative newcomer to the super middleweight ratings.

MOST WEEKS RATED: LUCIAN BUTE **392**

FEWEST WEEKS RATED: JAMES DEGALE **20**

OLDEST: CARL FROCH **36**

YOUNGEST: THOMAS OOSTHUIZEN **25**

MOST FIGHTS: MIKKEL KESSLER **49**

FEWEST FIGHTS: DEGALE **17**

BEST WINNING PERCENTAGE: (TIE) WARD, GEORGE GROVES, EDWIN RODRIGUEZ **100 PERCENT**

WORST WINNING PERCENTAGE: SAKIO BIKA **82 PERCENT**

MOST KOS: KESSLER **35**

FEWEST KOS: DEGALE **11**

LONGEST WINNING STREAK: KESSLER **39 FIGHTS**

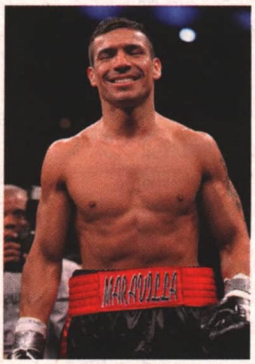
ON THE POUND-FOR-POUND LIST: WARD NO. 2

TITLEHOLDERS IN THE TOP 10: WARD (RING, WBA), FROCH (IBF), BIKA (WBC) AND ROBERT STIEGLITZ (WBO)

ON THE CUSP (IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER): ANDRE DIRRELL, BRANDON GONZALES, EZEQUIEL MADERNA, MARCO ANTONIO PERIBAN AND MAXIM VLASOV

OLD SCHOOL 8

THE RING staff members' current champions in the original eight weight classes.



Aging Sergio Martinez is hanging onto his old-school position on two of our three lists.

MICHAEL ROSENTHAL RING MAGAZINE EDITOR

HEAVYWEIGHT: WLADIMIR KLITSCHKO
LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT: ANDRE WARD
MIDDLEWEIGHT: SERGIO MARTINEZ
WELTERWEIGHT: FLOYD MAYWEATHER JR.
LIGHTWEIGHT: TAKASHI UCHIYAMA
FEATHERWEIGHT: GUILLERMO RIGONDEAUX
BANTAMWEIGHT: ANSELMO MORENO
FLYWEIGHT: ROMAN GONZALEZ

DOUG FISCHER RINGTV.COM EDITOR

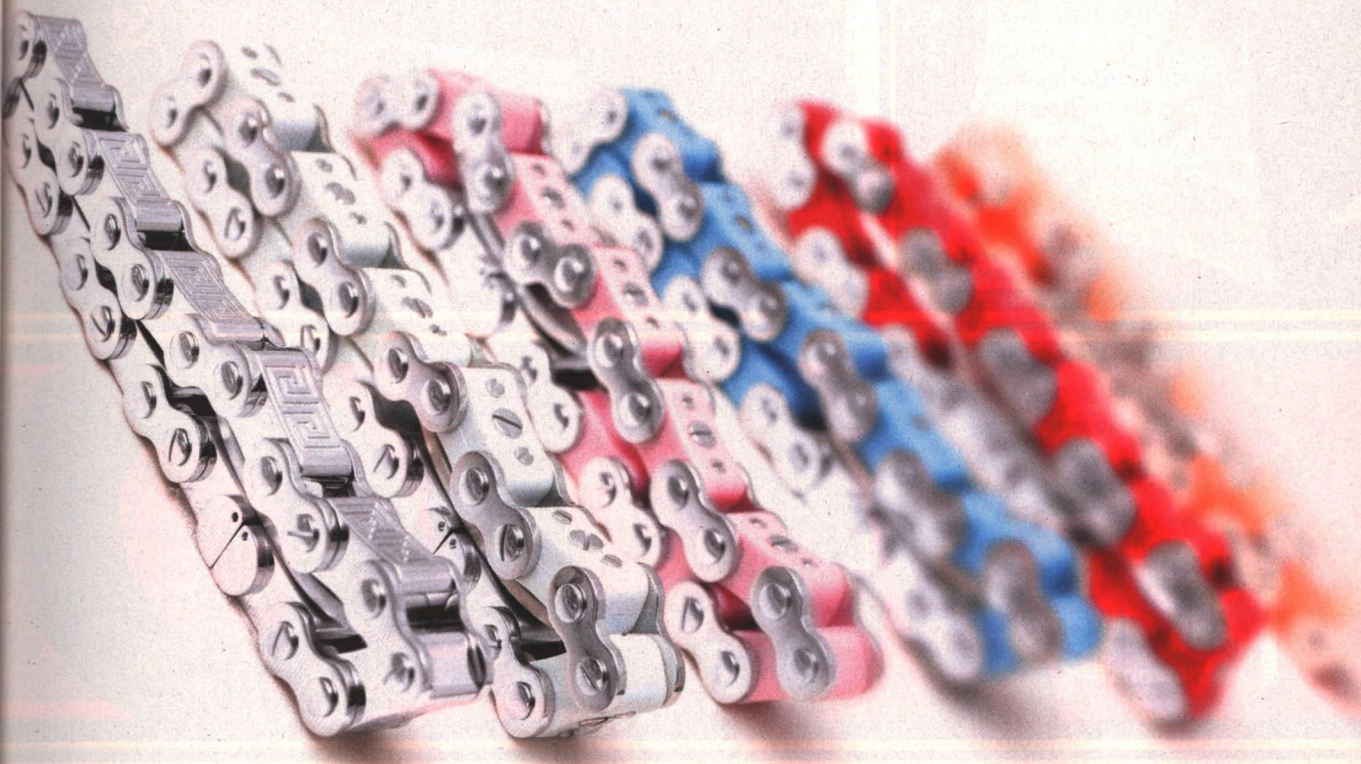
HEAVYWEIGHT: WLADIMIR KLITSCHKO
LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT: ANDRE WARD
MIDDLEWEIGHT: GENNADY GOLOVKIN
WELTERWEIGHT: FLOYD MAYWEATHER JR.
LIGHTWEIGHT: MIGUEL VAZQUEZ
FEATHERWEIGHT: CHRIS JOHN
BANTAMWEIGHT: ANSELMO MORENO
FLYWEIGHT: ROMAN GONZALEZ

LEM SATTERFIELD STAFF WRITER

HEAVYWEIGHT: WLADIMIR KLITSCHKO
LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT: ANDRE WARD
MIDDLEWEIGHT: SERGIO MARTINEZ
WELTERWEIGHT: FLOYD MAYWEATHER JR.
LIGHTWEIGHT: MIGUEL VAZQUEZ
FEATHERWEIGHT: CHRIS JOHN
BANTAMWEIGHT: ANSELMO MORENO
FLYWEIGHT: ROMAN GONZALEZ

Note: *This is how the weights break down: Heavyweight includes cruiserweight, light heavyweight includes super middleweight, all divisions middleweight through flyweight include the "junior" versions, and flyweight also includes strawweight.*

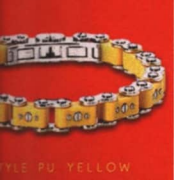
IceLink
Bicycle Bracelets



Now available at

★macy's

available at the IceLink Flagship Boutique - 666 N Kilkea Dr. - Los Angeles, CA 90048 - 323-782-8666 - www.icelinkwatch.com

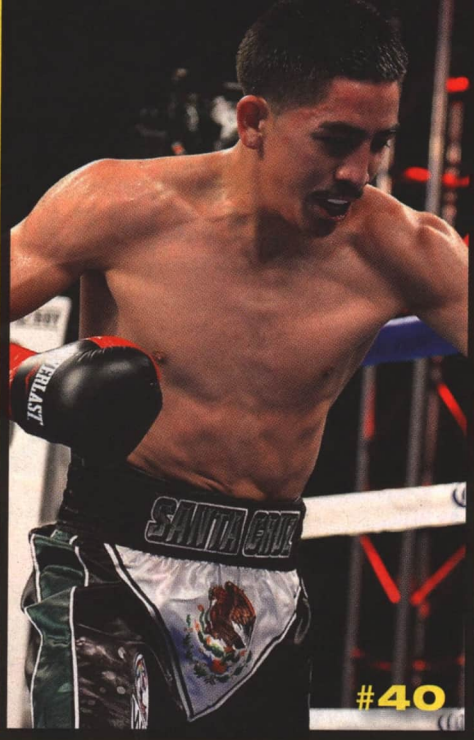


STYLE PU PINK

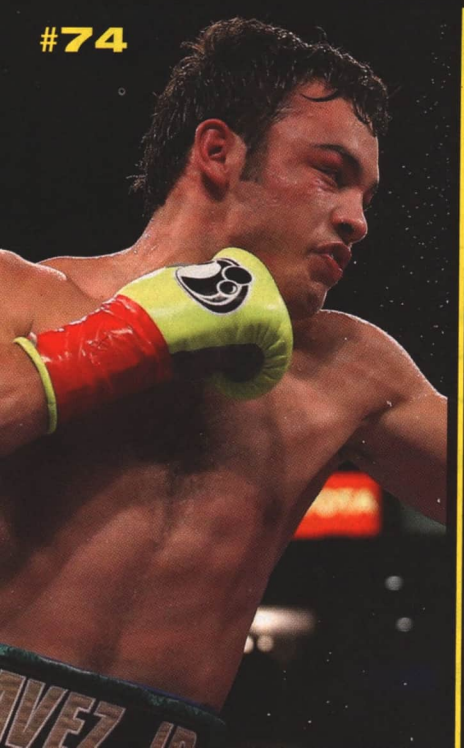
STYLE PU ORANGE

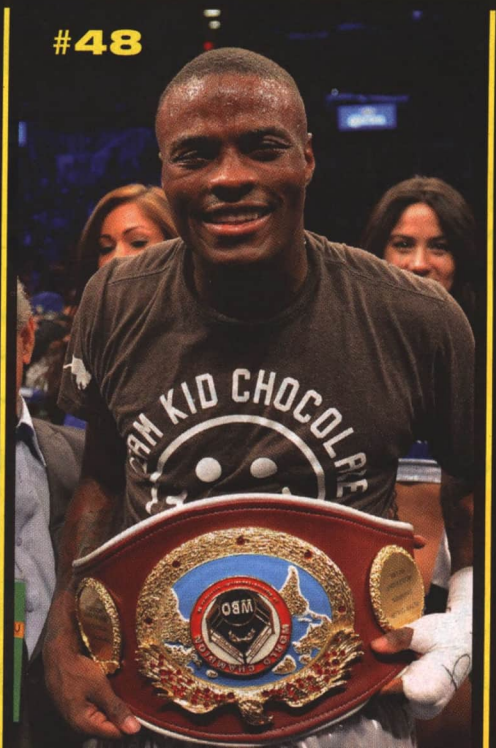
STYLE PU RED

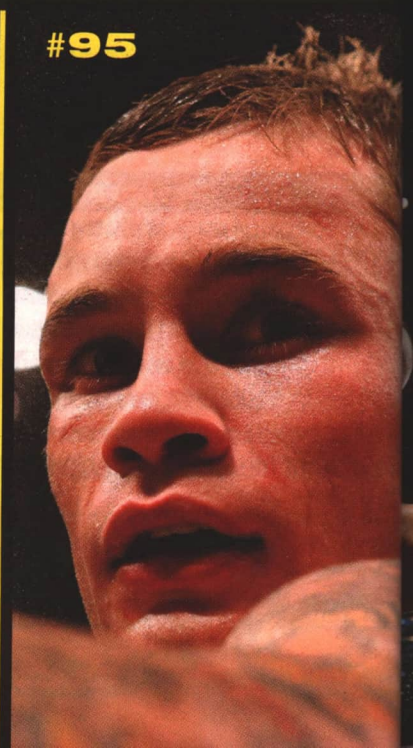
STYLE PU BLUE

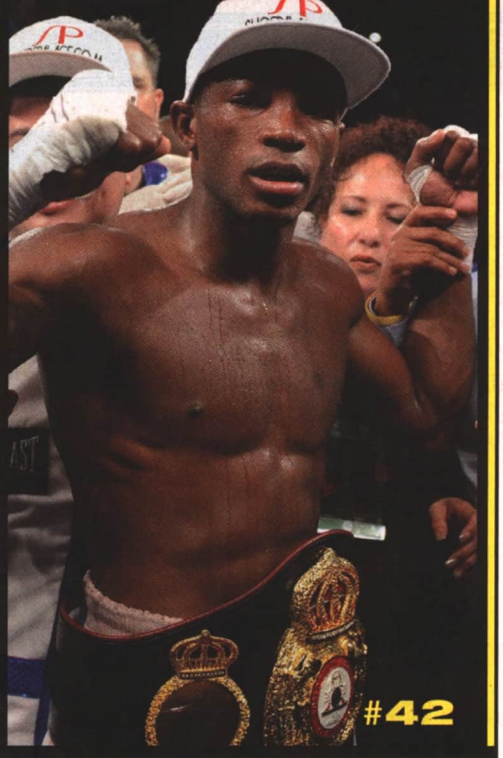


The RING 100









OUR ANNUAL RANKING OF **THE BEST FIGHTERS IN THE WORLD**

Compiled By **David Greisman, Martin Mulcahey** and **Anson Wainwright.** Written By **Greisman.**

We know who the best boxer is. It's Floyd Mayweather Jr., who has been atop or near the top of the sport for years. Selecting the best 100 fighters for the annual RING 100 takes a lot more time for discussion and debate.

After all, there are 17 weight classes, four major sanctioning bodies and bouts taking place year-round on six continents. Fortunately, technology has made it easier to watch the fights, to know more about who's who and what happened.

And fortunately, there are faithful fight fans who enjoy everything between strawweight and heavyweight, watching matches airing from every corner of the globe.

This year, writers David Greisman, Martin Mulcahey and Anson Wainwright took on what amounted to an extended water-cooler conversation, with nearly two months of argument and agreement about who they felt the Top 100 fighters are and what order they should be in.

Every week brought more fights and more changes. And even after the RING 100 was wrapping up, there was still debate about everything from how high a ranking Wladimir Klitschko deserves to where in the rankings Mike Alvarado and Ruslan Provodnikov needed to be moved to after their fight.

Alvarado-Provodnikov and the various results up until Oct. 20 were the cutoff for this year's RING 100. It's a subjective list, of course. Left alone, Greisman and Mulcahey and Wainwright would have different rankings.

What you have in front of you is a good look at this sport's numerous champions, titleholders, contenders and prospects, with many on their way up and others making their way out.

We expect a mix of argument and agreement from you. After all, that is one of the fun things about making a list like this.

Note: The RING 100 was produced by contributors separately from the official RING Ratings. Thus, the Top 10 doesn't match the official RING pound-for-pound list.

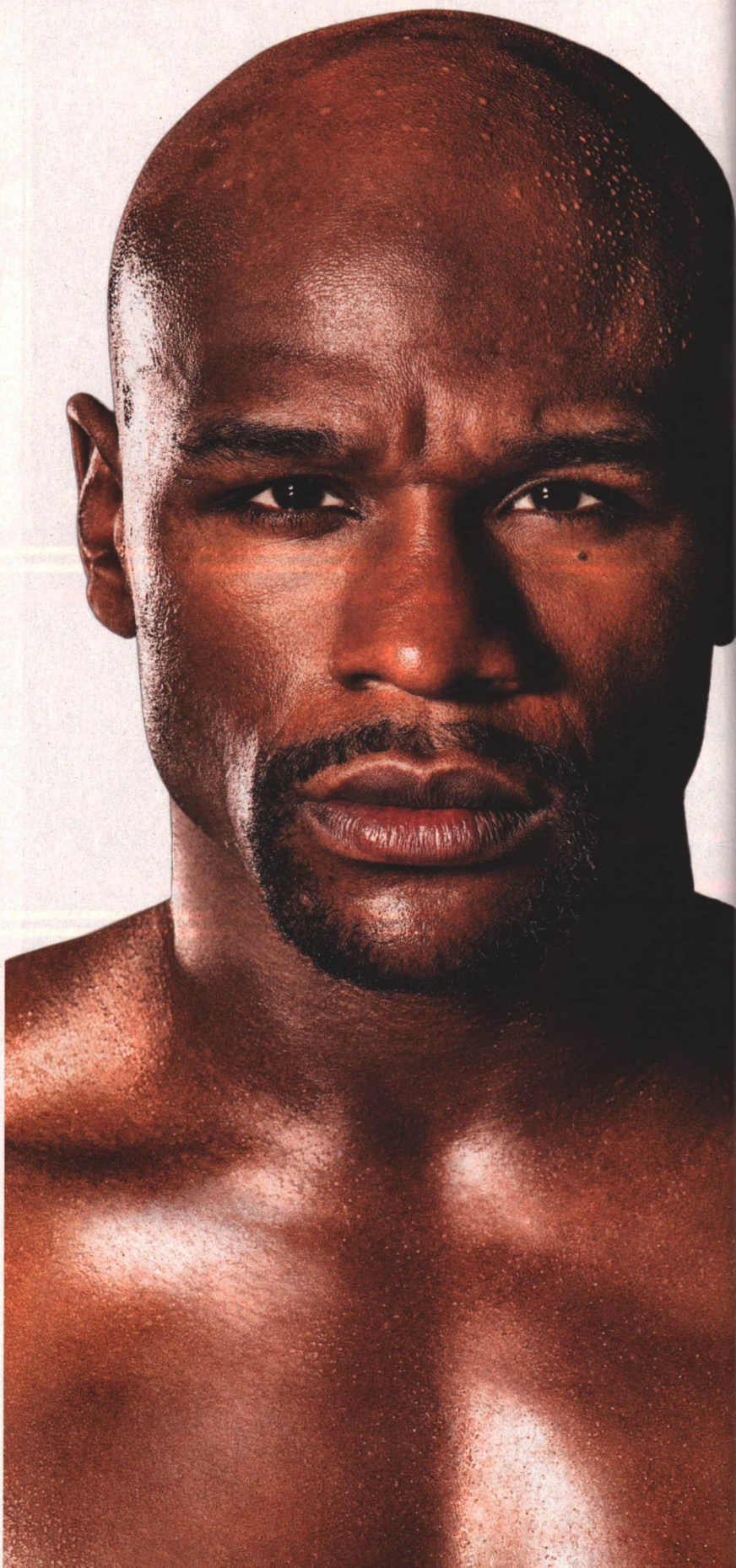
1.

FLOYD MAYWEATHER JR.

The Rundown: Welterweight/junior middleweight with the RING and WBC titles at 147 and RING, WBA and WBC titles at 154 ★ Record: 45-0 (26 knockouts) ★ Last year's ranking: 1

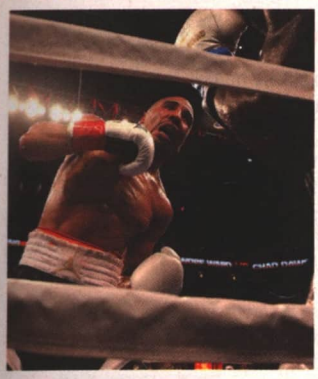
The Reasons: Countless fighters have successful runs. None has won for as long a period of time at such a high level. It's not just about Mayweather's refrain of "45 have tried and 45 have failed." Rather, it's the 19 wins over current and former world titleholders, the belts he's picked up from 130 through 154 and the fourth lineal championship he earned with September's majority decision victory over Canelo Alvarez. At the age of 36, he's still head and shoulders above younger opponents and capable veterans — and each win pads his bank account further for the day he finally hangs up his gloves.

The Future: If history is any indication, Mayweather will headline on Cinco de Mayo weekend in Las Vegas on a Showtime pay-per-view.



Selecting the No. 1 fighter in the world was easy. That wasn't the case for much of the rest of the list.

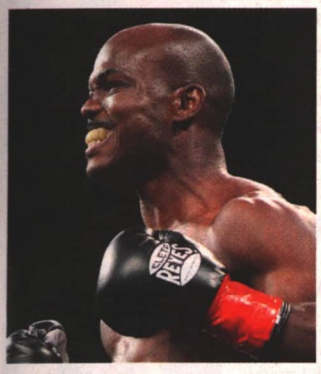
2. ANDRE **WARD**



The Rundown: Super middleweight with the RING and WBA titles ★ Record: 26-0 (14 KOs) ★ Last year: 3

The Reasons: Ward promptly staked his claim to super middleweight superiority at the outset of the "Super Six" when he beat Mikkel Kessler, then cemented it by winning all of his tournament bouts and topping Carl Froch in the finale. That made him the best at 168, and a year later he beat the man then regarded as the best light heavyweight, Chad Dawson, who was coming down from 175. Ward is seen as having the complete package of skills and smarts. The Dawson fight showed he not only is adept at defense but also at dissecting his foes and then disposing of them.
The Future: Ward was scheduled to face Edwin Rodriguez on Nov. 16 in his first fight in more than 14 months, the result of a severely injured shoulder suffered in sparring.

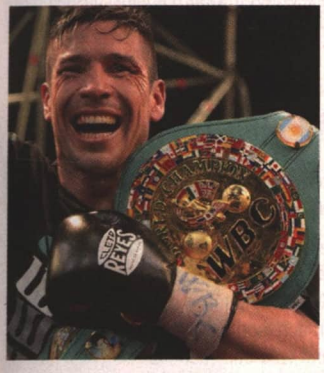
3. TIMOTHY **BRADLEY**



The Rundown: Welterweight with the WBO title ★ Record: 31-0 (12 KOs) ★ Last year: 8

The Reasons: Bradley has held world titles at junior welterweight and welterweight for more than five years now, defeating Junior Witter and Kendall Holt, outperforming Lamont Peterson, outpointing Devon Alexander and then taking a highly controversial split decision over Manny Pacquiao and a debated unanimous decision over Ruslan Provodnikov. It's a very good run, but respect eluded him. The Alexander fight was panned for its ugly clash of styles. Few felt he deserved the nod against Pacquiao. And his war with Provodnikov came because he disregarded his game plan. He was out on his feet and fighting on pure instinct and guts during the bout. Yet his skills and a smart strategy brought him a big win against Juan Manuel Marquez in October, a performance that demands respect and affirms his placement among the sport's best.
The Future: Bradley's next opponent had not yet been decided.

4. SERGIO **MARTINEZ**



The Rundown: Middleweight with the RING and WBC titles ★ Record: 51-2-2 (28 KOs) ★ Last year: 4

The Reasons: Martinez has excelled even though he's smaller than the other top middleweights and older than the other titleholders and contenders. He has now been champion and made more successful defenses than the two previous claimants to the 160-pound throne, Kelly Pavlik and Jermain Taylor. Since outpointing Pavlik in 2010, Martinez has knocked out Paul Williams, Sergei Dzinziruk, Darren Barker and Matthew Macklin, and won decisions over Julio Cesar Chavez Jr. and Martin Murray. He became better with age, though the wear and tear of years in the sport have begun to show in the form of injuries. **The Future:** Martinez took the remainder of 2013 off after reinjuring his left hand and right knee against Murray. The middleweight division continued on without him, with the power-punching Gennady Golovkin anointed as a potential future opponent and heir apparent. A bout with Miguel Cotto is another possibility.

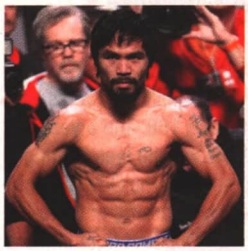
5. JUAN MANUEL **MARQUEZ**

The Rundown: Welterweight ★ Record: 55-7-1 (40 KOs) ★ Last year: 6

The Reasons: His pursuit of Manny Pacquiao, and of the popularity that eluded him while Erik Morales and Marco Antonio Barrera became icons, forced him to become a more entertaining fighter and made him an established attraction. He scored knockouts and captured world titles while following Pacquiao up in weight. He lost disputed decisions in the second and third Pacquiao bouts but emphatically turned the tables on his rival in the fourth fight with a single right hand. Even his defeats over the past decade, including a robbery against Chris John and a one-sided loss to Floyd Mayweather Jr., haven't diminished his legacy. Marquez's career path has paralleled the way his fights go: He adjusted and found a way to win. He couldn't find a way to beat Timothy Bradley in October, though, dropping a split decision against a very good, skilled opponent.
The Future: Marquez's next step, should his career continue, hadn't been announced.

MAYWEATHER COURTESY OF SHOWTIME; WARD: EZRA SHAW/GETTY IMAGES; BRADLEY: KEVORK DJANSEZIAN/GETTY IMAGES; MARTINEZ: JUAN MABROMATA/AFP/GETTY IMAGES; MARQUEZ: AL BELLO/GETTY IMAGES.

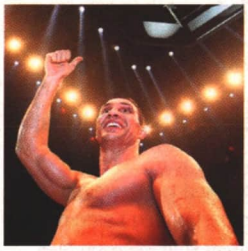
6. MANNY **PACQUIAO**



The Rundown: Welterweight ★ Record: 54-5-2 (38 KOs) ★ Last year: 2

The Reasons: You wouldn't expect a fighter who lost two in a row to still be rated in this spot. Pacquiao, however, remains highly regarded despite the defeats thanks to the spectacular seven-year streak of victories that preceded them and the manner in which he lost (and to whom). Going into 2012 he had won 15 in a row, eight of those by knockout, capturing RING championships at 130 and 140 and sanctioning-body titles at 135, 147 and 154, and vaulting deservedly toward the top of pound-for-pound lists. Then came a highly controversial split-decision defeat to Timothy Bradley, followed by a one-punch knockout loss to Juan Manuel Marquez.
The Future: Pacquiao was scheduled to face Brandon Rios at welterweight on Nov. 23.

7. WLADIMIR **KLITSCHKO**



The Rundown: Heavyweight with the RING, IBF, WBA and WBO titles ★ Record: 61-3 (51 KOs) ★ Last year: 7

The Reasons: Long gone are the days of watching Klitschko's fights and waiting for the one shot that would bring him toppling down in failure once again. Rather, we recognize Klitschko's reign, one that has seen him go undefeated for nearly a decade. He has pummeled his way to 19 straight victories over titleholders, contenders and sacrificial lambs, and he has made 15 consecutive successful defenses of his sanctioning body belts, including a dominant (though even more aesthetically displeasing than usual) decision over Alexander Povetkin in October. This is the Wladimir Klitschko Era, though he'd gladly say that he shares the throne with his older brother, Vitali.
The Future: Klitschko's next fight had not yet been set.

8. GUILLERMO **RIGONDEAUX**

The Rundown: Junior featherweight with the RING, WBA and WBO titles ★ Record: 12-0 (8 KOs) ★ Last year: 17

The Reasons: It didn't take long for the acclaimed amateur and two-time Olympic gold medalist to make a splash once he finally entered the pro ranks. Rigondeaux won a world title in his ninth bout and successfully defended it twice before stepping way up in level of opposition to face Nonito Donaire. He took a clear win over 2012's Boxing Writers Association of America Fighter of the Year, displaying defensive skills and boxing ability that will prove difficult against anyone intent on challenging him. **The Future:** Rigondeaux is expected to return against Joseph Agbeko on Dec. 7.

9. CARL **FROCH**

The Rundown: Super middleweight with the IBF title ★ Record: 31-2 (22 KOs) ★ Last year: 12

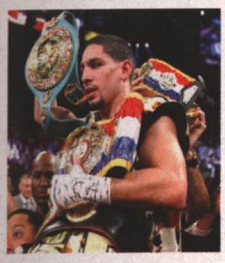
The Reasons: Froch has fought one of the toughest slates of opponents over the past five years, beginning with a decision over Jean Pascal and continuing through the Super Six tournament and the two years since his loss in the finale to Andre Ward. His only losses have come against Ward and Mikkel Kessler, the latter avenged in a rematch last May. He has also topped Jermain Taylor, Andre Dirrell, Arthur Abraham, Glen Johnson and Lucian Bute. Froch is a rarity: a face-forward brawler who is smarter and more skilled than he looks, and who still succeeds at a high level at the age of 36. **The Future:** Froch was scheduled to face George Groves on Nov. 23.

10. NONITO **DONAIRE**

The Rundown: Featherweight ★ Record: 31-2 (20 KOs) ★ Last year: 5

The Reasons: Donaire is not only recovering from shoulder surgery but also from a loss to Guillermo Rigondeaux, whose style often stymied him. Rigondeaux had Donaire looking nothing like the explosive puncher who just two days before had received his BWAA Fighter of the Year award for 2012. Losing to one of the world's best fighters shouldn't take too much away from a run that began with a 2007 knockout of Vic Darchinyan, a highlight-reel stoppage of Fernando Montiel in 2011 and world titles at 112, 118 and 122. **The Future:** Donaire was scheduled to make his featherweight debut on Nov. 9 in a rematch against Darchinyan.

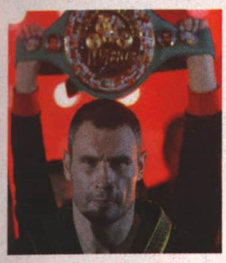
11. DANNY **GARCIA**



The Rundown: Junior welterweight with the RING, WBA and WBC titles ★ Record: 27-0 (16 KOs) ★ Last year: 31

The Reasons: Garcia's rapid ascent has culminated in deserved acclaim. In 2011, he was still a prospect appearing as an undercard afterthought, going the distance with Nate Campbell and Kendall Holt. In 2012, he won a vacant title over an aged Erik Morales, unified the belt with a knockout of the chinny Amir Khan, then wrapped up his year by stopping Morales, who was even more done than he'd been in their first tilt. Whatever troubles he had with a motivated Zab Judah in early 2013 were promptly forgotten when he took a clear win over his division's bogeyman, Lucas Matthysse, in September. **The Future:** Garcia's team would like to move from pay-per-view co-feature underneath Floyd Mayweather Jr. into a main event against him. Whether that happens remains to be seen.

12. VITALI **KLITSCHKO**



The Rundown: Heavyweight with the WBC title ★ Record: 45-2 (41 KOs) ★ Last year: 9

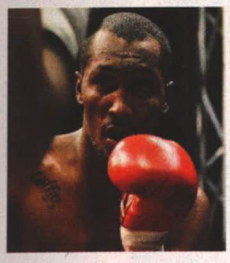
The Reasons: A hand injury hasn't been the only reason for Klitschko's inactivity. Politics have also taken precedence over pugilism. While he has been busy in the political arena in Ukraine, he's now been gone from sports arenas for more than a year since his September 2012 stoppage of Manuel Charr and isn't expected to return until April at the earliest. Klitschko won a world title in 2008 in his first fight back from a four-year layoff and has successfully defended that belt nine times. He's 42 now, though, and might just have one bout left before he retires again, this time for good. **The Future:** Klitschko's mandatory challenger is Bermane Stiverne. There's no guarantee that Klitschko will face Stiverne in his first and perhaps final fight back.

13. ROMAN **GONZALEZ**

The Rundown: Flyweight ★ Record: 36-0 (30 KOs) ★ Last year: 23

The Reasons: The kind of punching power Gonzalez has shown is relatively rare for the lightest weight classes in boxing, yet it's clearly there, and that has helped bring more attention to "El Chocolatito." Gonzalez won his first world title as a strawweight in 2008, the first and only person to stop longtime beltholder Yutaka Niida, who never fought again. Gonzalez moved up to 108 three years ago and has defended his title there a handful of times, including a decision win over Juan Francisco Estrada in a battle that looks even better in hindsight given Estrada's accomplishments since. **The Future:** Gonzalez was expected to move to flyweight for a fight with Oscar Blanquet on Nov. 10.

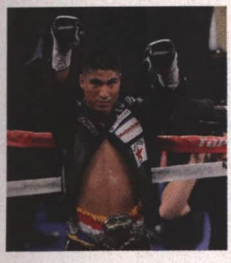
14. ANSELMO **MORENO**



The Rundown: Bantamweight with the WBA title ★ Record: 34-2-1 (12 KOs) ★ Last year: 10

The Reasons: Despite Moreno's 2012 loss to Abner Mares, he's still seen as one of the best boxers in the sport. He captured his bantamweight title in 2008 and has held it for 5½ years, defending it successfully 12 times, including a 2011 decision over Vic Darchinyan. The Panamanian has shown a willingness to travel and an ability to win on the scorecards in hostile territory, including France, Germany and Venezuela. He went to California and to 122 pounds for the Mares loss, then came back to his home country and division this past August, outpointing William Urina. **The Future:** Moreno's passport might get another stamp should negotiations for a fight with Koki Kameda end up sending him to Japan.

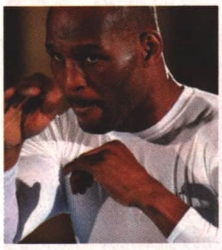
15. MIKEY **GARCIA**



The Rundown: Junior lightweight with the RING featherweight title ★ Record: 32-0 (27 KOs) ★ Last year: 40

The Reasons: Sometimes a high ranking is based on one big win that followed a string of victories over lesser foes. That's the case with Garcia, who looked good as he transitioned from prospect to contender, scoring eight straight knockouts between 2010 and 2012. Then he showed he truly has the goods with his early 2013 win over Orlando Salido, knocking Salido down twice in the opening round and four times in total. The fight ended on a head butt while Salido was battling back, but Garcia earned the technical decision, a world title and the RING championship at featherweight. Garcia lost his title at the scales before his next bout, a demolition of Juan Manuel Lopez. **The Future:** Garcia was scheduled to face Roman Martinez on Nov. 9 for Martinez's junior lightweight title.

16.



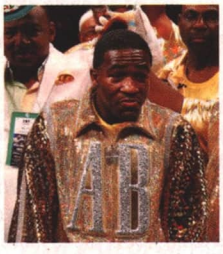
BERNARD **HOPKINS**

The Rundown:
Light heavyweight with the IBF title ★ Record: 53-6-2 (32 KOs) ★ Last year: 25

The Reasons:
Hopkins keeps getting counted out, though never literally. Yet he keeps proving he's not done, that the end of his 25-year career will come on his terms. Since leaving middleweight after a long reign and two losses to Jermain Taylor, he has twice become the true light heavyweight champion. Among those who have underestimated what this old man could still do: Antonio Tarver, Kelly Pavlik, Jean Pascal and Tavoris Cloud. The Cloud win showed he still belonged after being dethroned by Chad Dawson and earned the 48-year-old a world title.

The Future:
Hopkins had a bout against mandatory challenger Karo Murat scheduled for Oct 26.

17.

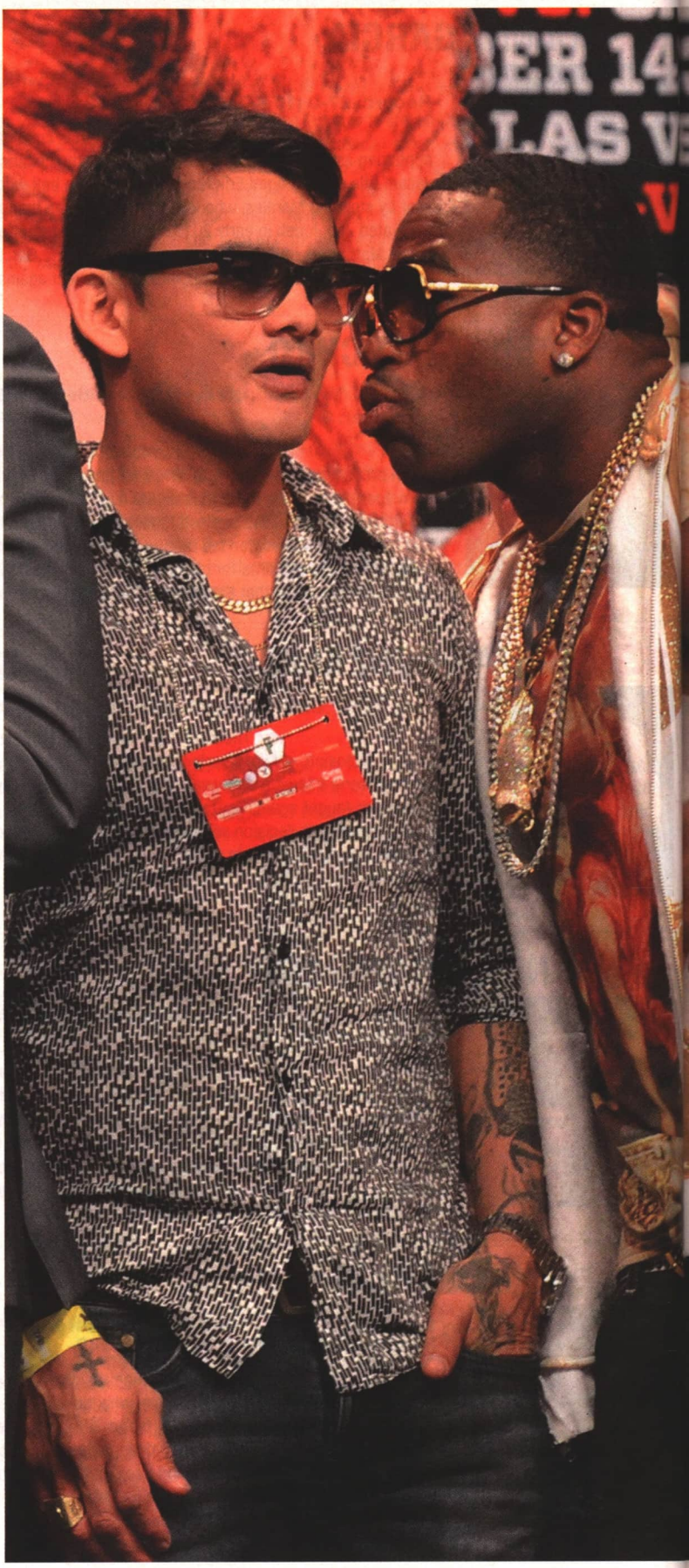


ADRIEN **BRONER**

The Rundown:
Lightweight/ welterweight with the WBC title at 135 and the WBA title at 147 ★ Record: 27-0 (22 KOs) ★ Last year: 21

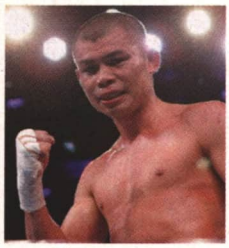
The Reasons:
There isn't much substance to Broner's accomplishment of winning titles in three divisions, though he has talent to go along with his outsized personality. He's had brief stays in divisions that lacked much depth. He defended his belt once at 130 before losing it on the scales, then moved up to lightweight for a thorough thrashing of titleholder Antonio DeMarco and a dispatching of Gavin Rees. He bypassed 140, where the big names were tied up, and instead took a split decision over Paulie Malignaggi and a world title at 147.

The Future:
Expect Broner to leave lightweight permanently behind in favor of bigger fights against bigger names. His pay-per-view main event debut was expected to take place on Dec. 14 against Marcos Maidana.



Adrien Broner's No. 17 position was in jeopardy going into his fight with Marcos Maidana (left).

18.



CHRIS **JOHN**

The Rundown:
Featherweight with the WBA title ★ Record: 48-0-3 (22 KOs) ★ Last year: 14

The Reasons:
The testament to John's longevity is that in the 9½ years he has held a world title, nearly 30 other men have captured belts at featherweight, none of them holding their titles for anywhere near as long as John has. He has successfully defended his title 18 times, with 15 wins and three draws (two of those draws ending early after heads clashed). He has not lost once in his 51 fights, and his résumé includes a victory over Juan Manuel Marquez. The trouble with John's longevity is that he has not faced a single one of those other titleholders, nor has he faced a single top opponent in recent years. Also, the Marquez win is considered by nearly all to have been a robbery.

The Future:
John's next fight had not been scheduled several months after he'd suffered a bad cut in his technical draw with Satoshi Hosono. His team said in 2012 that the plan was for John to retire after his 50th win.

19.

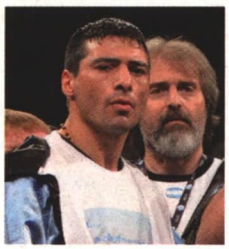
GENNADY **GOLOVKIN**

The Rundown:
Middleweight with the WBA title ★ Record: 27-0 (24 KOs) ★ Last year: 29

The Reasons:
Power is a universal currency in boxing, and Golovkin has put the middleweight world on notice. It's been 5½ years since an opponent was able to last the distance, and only three of his wins have come by decision. After building a cult following among the sport's hardcore, Golovkin has built a broader fan base with beatdowns of Grzegorz Proksa, Gabriel Rosado and Matthew Macklin on HBO, and a one-punch knockout of Nobuhiro Ishida that made the rounds on YouTube. This run has vaulted him into the No. 2 spot at 160.

The Future:
Golovkin was scheduled to face Curtis Stevens on Nov. 2.

20.



LUCAS **MATTHYSSE**

The Rundown:
Junior welterweight ★ Record: 34-3 (32 KOs) ★ Last year: 26

The Reasons:
Matthysse's rise to prominence earned him the brightest possible spotlight: a fight against the other top junior welterweight on the undercard of the biggest pay-per-view in years. Yet after knocking out Humberto Soto, Olusegun Ajose, Mike Dallas Jr. and Lamont Peterson, Matthysse's run came to a halt against Danny Garcia. Matthysse dropped a close but clear decision to Garcia, who absorbed Matthysse's power and stymied his offense. Matthysse's two other losses were debatable split decisions against talented opponents: Zab Judah in 2010 and Devon Alexander in 2011.

The Future:
Matthysse was resting in the weeks immediately after the Garcia loss. His return had not yet been set.

21.

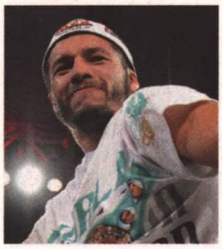
KAZUTO **IOKA**

The Rundown:
Junior flyweight with the WBA belt ★ Record: 13-0 (9 KOs) ★ Last year: 68

The Reasons:
Ioka was just 6-0 when he stopped Oleydong Sithsamerchai to win a world title at 105 pounds, which he successfully defended three times and unified in a fantastic fight with Akira Yaegashi. Yaegashi has since gone on to become the flyweight champion. Ioka, meanwhile, went up to 108, and has won three times, all by knockout. A battle with power-punching beltholder Roman Gonzalez hasn't come to fruition, but it remains just one potential pairing that connoisseurs of these lower weight classes would salivate over.

The Future:
Ioka beat Kwanthai Sithmorseng in September. His next outing had not yet been set.

22.



JHONNY GONZALEZ

The Rundown:
Featherweight with the WBC title ★
Record: 55-8 (47 KOs) ★
Last year: 47

The Reasons:
Gonzalez continues to rebound from defeat and capture world titles with knockouts. His first-round stoppage win over Abner Mares was a big victory over a top titleholder. Gonzalez had one prior reign at 126, making four successful defenses of his belt before losing it to Daniel Ponce De Leon. He also had two title reigns at 118, with wins over Fernando Montiel and an old Mark "Too Sharp" Johnson. Four of his defeats were early in his career. The others came against Israel Vazquez, Gerry Penalosa, Toshiaki Nishioka and Ponce De Leon.

The Future:
Gonzalez could end up facing Mares in a rematch. He's also said to be eyeing a move to junior lightweight.

23.

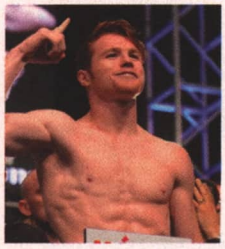
ABNER MARES

The Rundown:
Featherweight ★
Record: 26-1-1 (14 KOs) ★
Last year: 15

The Reasons:
Mares had captured world titles in three divisions (bantamweight, junior featherweight and featherweight) in an era when that feat is far easier to accomplish. Nevertheless, this run saw him go 6-0-1 against current and former titleholders, with that draw against Yonnhy Perez at the outset followed by victories over Vic Darchinyan, Joseph Agbeko (twice), Eric Morel, Anselmo Moreno and Daniel Ponce De Leon. And then it, and he, came tumbling down as a result of Jhonny Gonzalez's heavy hands, which dropped Mares twice in the first round in August. Many good fighters have been felled. The greats go on to exact emphatic revenge.

The Future:
Mares wants to right his ship in a rematch with Gonzalez, though that fight hadn't yet been confirmed.

24.



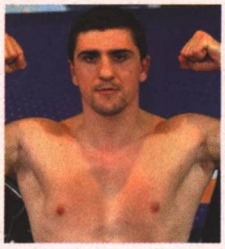
CANELO ALVAREZ

The Rundown:
Junior middleweight ★
Record: 42-1-1 (30 KOs) ★
Last year: 24

The Reasons:
There's no shame in losing to the best fighter in the world the way that Alvarez lost to Floyd Mayweather Jr.. The judges' scorecards were misleading; Mayweather won clearly. Nevertheless, Alvarez wasn't embarrassed. He was just rendered ineffective by a master boxer who has been able to do that to nearly everyone. Now Alvarez can return to proving his standing among the rest of a deep 154-pound division that still needs to sort itself out. His win over Austin Trout was his most notable victory to date after a series of good performances against smaller or faded foes, and it showed he belongs in the mix. Now's the time to cement his claim as the best junior middleweight not named Mayweather.

The Future: The most significant damage Alvarez suffered was the first loss on his record. He'll be back in 2014, performing in front of a packed crowd.

25.



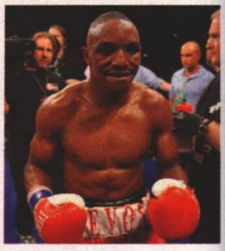
MARCO HUCK

The Rundown:
Cruiserweight with the WBO title ★
Record: 36-2-1 (25 KOs) ★
Last year: 43

The Reasons:
Huck has been in the cruiserweight conversation for nearly half his career now, dating back to 2007 when the then 19-0 prospect suffered a 12th-round technical knockout to titleholder Steve Cunningham. After capturing a belt of his own in 2009, he has successfully defended it 11 times over these past four years, including two victories and a draw with Ola Afolabi, and wins over Firat Arslan and former beltholder Denis Lebedev. Several of his defenses have been close, but he keeps on winning. He also nearly captured a title at heavyweight, dropping a majority decision to Alexander Povetkin in a verdict that many felt could have been in Huck's favor instead.

The Future:
Huck was scheduled to have a rematch with Arslan on Jan. 25.

26.



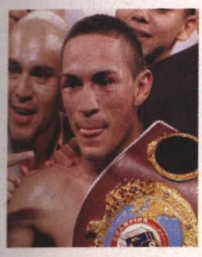
DEVON ALEXANDER

The Rundown:
Welterweight with the IBF title ★
Record: 25-1 (14 KOs) ★
Last year: 42

The Reasons:
Alexander's lone loss came against one of the best 140-pounders at the time, Timothy Bradley. He holds a win, albeit a disputed one, over vaunted power-puncher Lucas Matthysse. Why, then, is Alexander ranked where he is? Because boxing fans are waiting for consistency to go with the glimpses of talent. He had unified two world titles at junior welterweight with a knockout of Juan Urango but followed that with a tough victory over Andreas Kotelnik. He wasn't much fun to watch in his welterweight debut against Marcos Maidana or his title win over Randall Bailey, yet he showed fire in his last win, a stoppage of Lee Purdy.

The Future:
Alexander's scheduled to face Shawn Porter on Dec 7.

27.



JUAN FRANCISCO **ESTRADA**

The Rundown:
Flyweight with the WBA and WBO titles ★ Record: 25-2 (18 KOs) ★ Last year: unranked

The Reasons:
After a competitive defeat against highly regarded 108-pound titleholder Roman Gonzalez, Estrada moved up to flyweight and scored a split decision over Brian Viloria to capture two world titles in that division. He has since successfully defended them with yet another entertaining performance, outpointing Milan Melindo on his second undercard appearance in Macau. His only losses are to Gonzalez and Juan Carlos Sanchez Jr., who recently was a titleholder at 115. These defeats aren't necessarily a sign of Estrada's limitations but rather show promise that he belongs in with the best of these lighter weight classes.

The Future:
Estrada's next appearance had not yet been set, though a December date was one possibility.

28.

ADONIS **STEVENSON**

The Rundown:
Light heavyweight with the RING and WBC titles ★ Record: 22-1 (19 KOs) ★ Last year: 98

The Reasons:
Stevenson took power with his own power, seizing the light heavyweight championship in June with a one-punch technical knockout of Chad Dawson. That established him as a force to be reckoned with, though some wondered whether that win was a fluke because Dawson might've been irreversibly damaged in his 2012 loss to Andre Ward. Stevenson helped his cause by looking great in his first defense, a seven-round beatdown of former beltholder Tavoris Cloud. These victories were significant in what were tremendous steps up from his previous level of opponents.

The Future:
Stevenson's next fight is expected to come against mandatory challenger Tony Bellew on Nov. 30.

29.

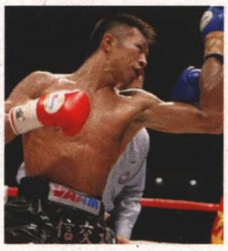
SHINSUKE **YAMANAKA**

The Rundown:
Bantamweight with the WBC title ★ Record: 19-0-2 (14 KOs) ★ Last year: 62

The Reasons:
Yamanaka has shown an ability to box when he needs to, and he has shown power no matter what round he throws his hands. He won his world title two years ago by an 11th-round stoppage of Christian Esquivel, made his first defense with a decision win over Vic Darchinyan, then scored knockouts in Round 7 against Tomas Rojas, in Round 12 against Malcolm Tunacao and in Round 1 against Jose Nieves. Though multiple stars have moved up from bantamweight to other divisions, Yamanaka is among those giving boxing fans good reason to pay attention to what's happening at 118.

The Future:
Yamanaka was scheduled to face Alberto Guevara on Nov. 10.

30.



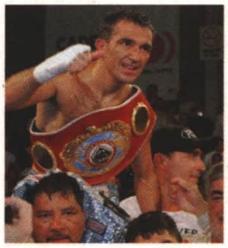
TAKASHI **UCHIYAMA**

The Rundown:
Junior lightweight with the WBA title ★ Record: 20-0-1 (17 KOs) ★ Last year: 55

The Reasons:
If you asked a hardcore boxing fan who he wanted Adrien Broner to face during his brief stay at junior lightweight, the fan might have mentioned Uchiyama. Nearly four years ago, Uchiyama stopped Juan Carlos Salgado in the final seconds of their fight to capture his world title. Since then, he has successfully defended seven times, recording six knockouts and one technical draw (thanks to a clash of heads). His record and some of the highlights are befitting of his "KO Dynamite" moniker. This big puncher just needs a big name to join him in the ring.

The Future:
Uchiyama was awaiting his next challenger for what would be just his second fight of 2013.

31.



OMAR **NARVAEZ**

The Rundown:
Junior bantamweight with the WBO title ★ Record: 40-1-2 (21 KOs) ★ Last year: 59

The Reasons:
Narvaez has held a world title for more than 11 years and in two divisions. He picked up a flyweight belt in 2002 in what was just his 12th pro fight, then successfully defended it 16 times over the course of seven years (with 15 wins and one draw). He then won a world title in the 115-pound division in 2010 and has successfully defended it eight times. His lone loss over his 13-year career came when he moved up to bantamweight to challenge Nonito Donaire in 2011. The lingering question is whether he'd have suffered other defeats, or earned big wins, had he faced other top talents over these years.

The Future:
Narvaez defeated Hiroyuki Hisataka in August. His next outing had not yet been set.

32.

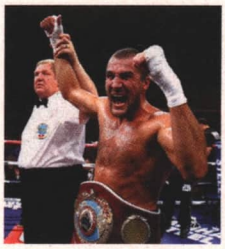
AUSTIN **TROUT**

The Rundown:
Junior middleweight ★ Record: 26-1 (14 KOs) ★ Last year: 56

The Reasons:
The debate over how good Austin Trout is depends on how good you think Miguel Cotto still was at the time Trout beat him — and how good you believe Canelo Alvarez to be. Trout's ascent began when he beat Canelo's brother Rigoberto, then defeated David Lopez, Frank LoPorto and Delvin Rodriguez. He was clearly skilled, but it was uncertain just how he would fare against bigger-name opposition. His win over Cotto came just after Cotto's loss to Floyd Mayweather Jr., launching Trout toward the top of the rankings. However, the loss to Canelo in 2013 was a setback that leaves Trout with more to prove.

The Future:
A promotional dispute left Trout inactive in the months following the loss against Canelo Alvarez, but he is expected to make his return Dec. 7 against Erislandy Lara.

33.



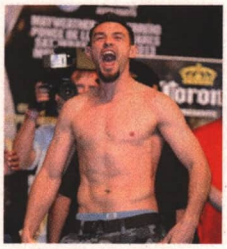
SERGEY **KOVALEV**

The Rundown:
Light heavyweight with the WBO title ★ Record: 22-0-1 (20 KOs) ★ Last year: unranked

The Reasons:
You would have thought that boxing writers had learned their lesson years ago when they predicted that Jeff Lacy would knock out Joe Calzaghe. And yet they once again favored the unproven power puncher over the British titleholder when Sergey Kovalev traveled to the United Kingdom to challenge Nathan Cleverly. This time they were right. While it's true that Cleverly is no Calzaghe, what Kovalev has shown is that his power cannot be taken lightly – neither figuratively nor literally. Only two of his opponents have lasted the distance. That doesn't necessarily mean Kovalev will go far, but it does mean we'll be watching.

The Future:
Kovalev's first title defense is expected to come Nov. 30 against Ismayl Sillakh.

34.



ROBERT **GUERRERO**

The Rundown:
Welterweight ★ Record: 31-2-1 (18 KOs) ★ Last year: 18

The Reasons:
Many scoffed when Guerrero first called out Floyd Mayweather Jr., given that Mayweather was a welterweight and Guerrero had yet to fight in that weight class. He'd won titles at 126 and 130, campaigned at lightweight and fought as high as 138 pounds. But then Guerrero showed himself to be viable at 147, outpointing Selcuk Aydin and winning a war with Andre Berto. He lost to Mayweather in 2013; everyone has lost to Mayweather, though. Now that we know Guerrero belongs at welterweight, it's up to him to show us where he truly belongs in that division's rankings.

The Future:
Guerrero's first fight back since the Mayweather loss had not yet been set.

35.

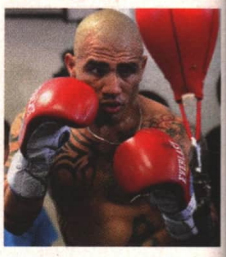
BRIAN **VILORIA**

The Rundown:
Flyweight ★ Record: 32-4 (19 KOs) ★ Last year: 16

The Reasons:
Viloria is in a situation he has faced before. Nearly four years ago he was defeated down the stretch in a grueling battle with Carlos Tamara. He was able to rebound from that loss by moving up in weight, eventually capturing another world title and later unifying it. It's uncertain what Viloria will do after his 2013 split-decision loss to Juan Francisco Estrada, another tough war that saw him fading as the rounds went on. Viloria has beaten some very good opponents during his three reigns in two divisions, but he in his 30s now, which is relatively old for the lighter divisions.

The Future:
No comeback fight had been set yet for Viloria.

36.

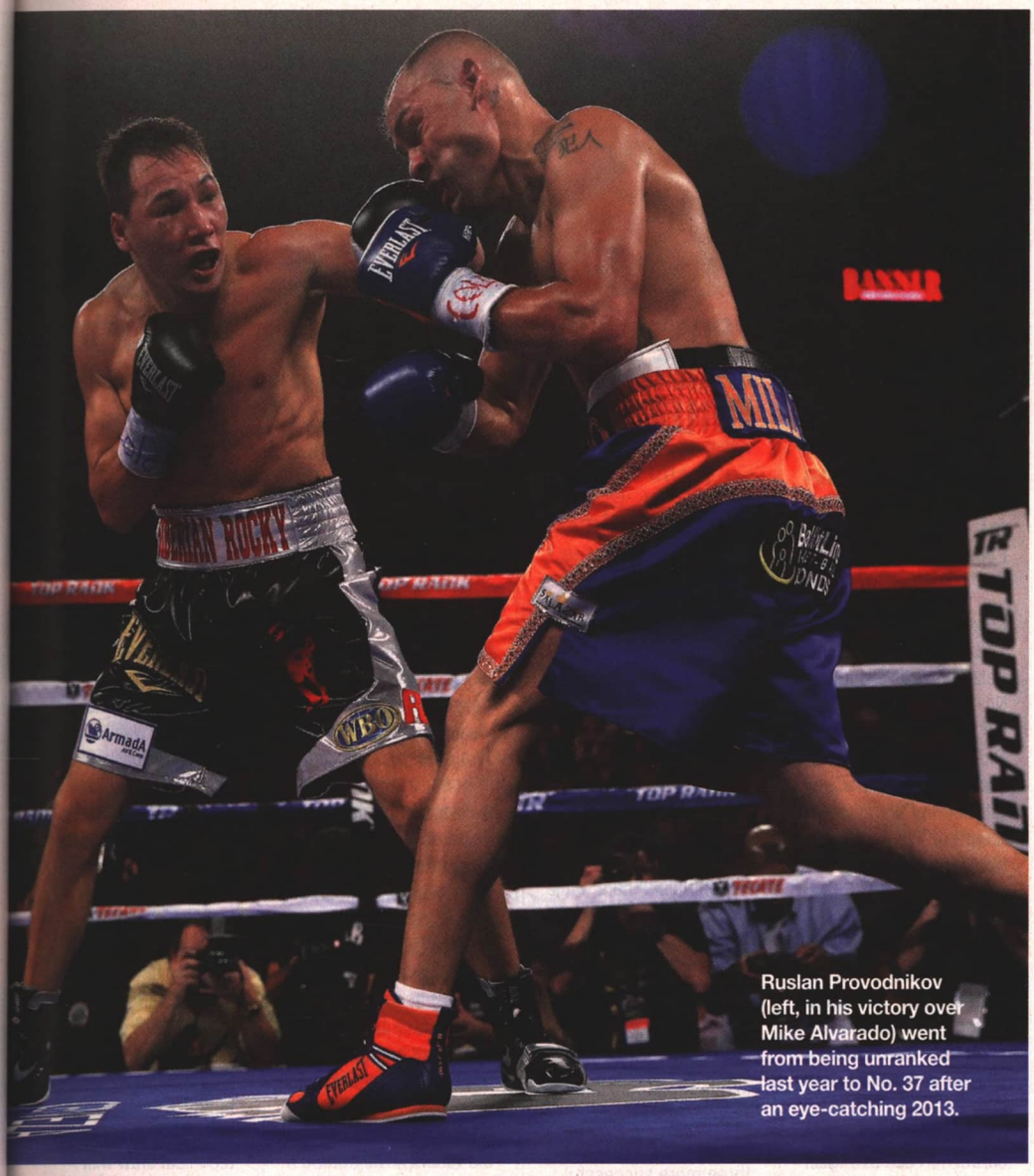


MIGUEL **COTTO**

The Rundown:
Junior middleweight ★ Record: 38-4 (31 KOs) ★ Last year: 11

The Reasons:
Losses in 2012 to a great boxer in Floyd Mayweather Jr. and a good boxer in Austin Trout seemed to signify that Cotto's time as one of the best in the sport was reaching its end. He's not yet done, though, as he showed in October with a one-sided stoppage win against Delvin Rodriguez. While that victory should be taken with a grain of salt, Cotto feels that working with Hall of Fame trainer Freddie Roach has rejuvenated him. We'll see. Cotto was young but powerful at junior welterweight, where he held a world title for two years and six successful defenses. He remained successful at welterweight, with a pair of title reigns ending at the formidable hands of Antonio Margarito and Manny Pacquiao. But his belt at 154 had less meaning; it was won against Yuri Foreman and defended successfully only against Ricardo Mayorga and a damaged Margarito.

The Future:
Cotto's team is mulling over what's next.



Ruslan Provodnikov (left, in his victory over Mike Alvarado) went from being unranked last year to No. 37 after an eye-catching 2013.

IN AND OUT

Fighters who entered the RING 100 this year and those ranked last year who departed.

IN *(THIS YEAR'S RANKING)*

27. Juan Francisco Estrada
33. Sergey Kovalev
37. Ruslan Provodnikov
46. Akira Yaegashi
49. Darren Barker
56. Carlos Molina
61. Robert Stieglitz
64. Martin Murray
67. Edwin Rodriguez
69. Donnie Nietes
71. Moises Fuentes
73. Ray Beltran
75. Keith Thurman
76. Kubrat Pulev
77. Denis Shafikov
79. Edgar Sosa
80. Evgeny Gradovich
84. Adrian Hernandez
86. Khabib Allahkverdiev
87. Argenis Mendez
88. Takashi Miura
89. Hekkie Budler
90. Roman Martinez
92. Ryo Miyazaki
93. Johnriel Casimero
95. Carl Frampton
96. Terence Crawford
97. Nicholas Walters
98. Tomoki Kameda
99. Srisaket Sor Rungvisai

OUT *(2012 RANKING)*

27. Toshiaki Nishioka
35. Andre Berto
41. Victor Ortiz
45. Juan Manuel Lopez
46. Tavoris Cloud
54. Kelly Pavlik
61. Tepparith Singwancha
64. Denis Lebedev
65. Jorge Arce
66. Billy Dib
70. Erik Morales
72. Giovani Segura
74. Yota Sato
75. Matthew Macklin
77. Toshiyuki Igarashi
78. Takahiro Ao
79. Ola Afolabi
80. Gabriel Campillo
82. Andre Dirrell
83. Celestino Caballero
84. Joan Guzman
86. Hozumi Hasegawa
87. Pongsaklek Wonjongkam
88. Juan Carlos Salgado
89. Tomasz Adamek
92. Denver Cuello
93. Cornelius Bundrage
95. Mario Rodriguez
96. Joseph Agbeko
97. Steve Cunningham

37.

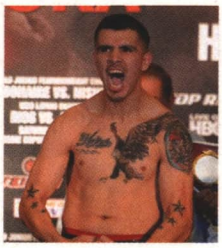
RUSLAN PROVODNIKOV

The Rundown:
Junior welterweight with the WBO title / welterweight ★ Record: 23-2 (16 KOs) ★ Last year: unranked

The Reasons:
Provodnikov had about as good a 1-1 year as possible. The loss, which came against welterweight titleholder Timothy Bradley in March, had meant more for his career than any of his prior wins did. Though it was Bradley who made a strategic error in coming out aggressively against Provodnikov, it still took a fighter with Provodnikov's power and ability to make Bradley pay for the mistake. And then Provodnikov proved that the Bradley fight was no fluke by putting a beating on Mike Alvarado in October. That win came over a tough junior welterweight warrior and earned Provodnikov a world title at 140.

The Future:
Provodnikov's team will seek a big fight for him at either junior welterweight or welterweight.

38.



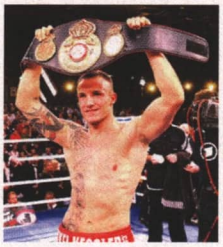
BRANDON **RIOS**

The Rundown:
Junior welterweight/ welterweight ★
Record: 31-1-1 (23 KOs) ★
Last year: 30

The Reasons:
Rios is the quintessential brawler: a fighter who doesn't necessarily carry one-punch knockout power but has enough thud in his fists to wear his opponents down – and enough chin and heart to withstand whatever it takes to get to them. That is the formula he used as a lightweight, where he dethroned Miguel Acosta and successfully defended his title against Urbano Antillon and John Murray. It's also how he dispatched Mike Alvarado in their first fight. Alvarado was able to outbox him enough in their rematch to win a close decision. That gave Rios his first defeat, though many feel he lucked out with his split decision over Richar Abril in 2012.

The Future:
Rios was scheduled to move up to 147 for a Nov. 23 fight with Manny Pacquiao.

39.



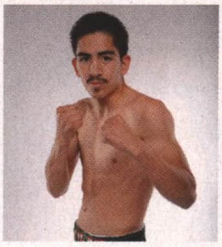
MIKKEL **KESSLER**

The Rundown:
Super middleweight ★
Record: 46-3 (35 KOs) ★
Last year: 34

The Reasons:
Kessler was the No. 2 168-pounder when Joe Calzaghe was around, No. 1 once Calzaghe left the division and a Top 5 fighter during and after the "Super Six" tournament. Despite his record of 9-3 in world title fights, he's been very good but not great. He lost to Calzaghe, then lost his top spot to Andre Ward in the tournament's first round. Though he bounced back from that defeat with an entertaining win over Carl Froch – the biggest win of Kessler's career – Froch avenged with a clear victory in 2013. There's not too much shame in those losses, though Kessler's wins in between have largely been against lower-tier opponents.

The Future:
Kessler's latest attempt at rebuilding had not yet been set.

40.



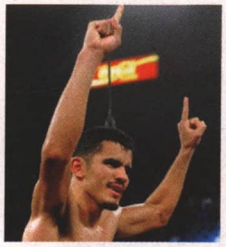
LEO **SANTA CRUZ**

The Rundown:
Junior featherweight with the WBC title ★
Record: 25-0-1 (15 KOs) ★
Last year: 69

The Reasons:
Santa Cruz will be a tough assignment for any of his opponents. He throws close to 100 punches per round, and that activity isn't just quantity but quality. The pop in his shots can break his opponents down, while the rest are forced to dig deep just to make it to the final bell. This formula helped Santa Cruz emerge on the scene in June 2012 with a bantamweight title win over Vusi Malinga and then three more successful defenses to end the year, including a headline appearance on network television. 2013 brought two more victories, one on the Mayweather-Guerrero undercard, the other a knockout of 122-pound beltholder Victor Terrazas.

The Future:
Santa Cruz's first defense of his new title is expected to be against Cesar Seda on Dec. 14.

41.



MIGUEL **VAZQUEZ**

The Rundown:
Lightweight with the IBF title ★
Record: 33-3 (13 KOs) ★
Last year: 37

The Reasons:
Since picking up a vacant title in 2010, Vazquez has won seven times, with five defenses yielding decision wins. Two other victories came in bouts where his belt was not on the line. Vazquez isn't pretty, but he is effective. That's why he belongs in a list of the best fighters at 135, but it's also why those fighters at 135 haven't been in any rush to face him. His one chance, a planned bout with Ricky Burns in 2013, was called off. Those losses on his record? They came earlier in his career at higher weight classes against familiar names: Canelo Alvarez (twice) and Timothy Bradley.

The Future:
A rematch with Ammeth Diaz, scheduled for Oct. 26, was canceled days before it was to take place.

42.

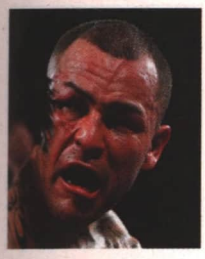
ERISLANDY **LARA**

The Rundown:
Junior middleweight ★
Record: 18-1-2 (12 KOs) ★
Last year: 44

The Reasons:
Lara's career has been like a game of snakes and ladders, with moves forward and backward, with some of those setbacks of his own doing and others being out of his control. The former acclaimed amateur had a draw against Carlos Molina in 2011 that easily could've been a win for Molina. Lara followed that up with a very good performance against Paul Williams that ended with the judges robbing him of a victory. In late 2012 he fought to a technical draw with Vanes Martirosyan, then scored a technical knockout over Alfredo Angulo in a good battle this past June. Lara deserves an opportunity at the top 154-pounders, but instead he has watched while his promoter puts more effort into other junior middleweights.

The Future:
Lara is expected to face Austin Trout on Dec. 7.

43.



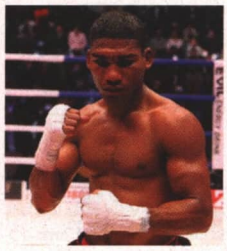
MIKE ALVARADO

The Rundown:
Junior welterweight ★ Record: 34-2 (23 KOs) ★ Last year: 81

The Reasons:
A year ago, Alvarado showed that he was good enough to go to war with Brandon Rios but not good enough to win that kind of battle. For all the pride that Alvarado has – his fan-friendly approach in wins over Breidis Prescott and Mauricio Herrera are what got him the Rios fight in the first place – he was also smart enough to change his game plan for their rematch. He mixed battling with boxing, sticking to that strategy en route to a close, unanimous and still very entertaining decision win. Yet that strategy didn't work in October against the emergent Ruslan Provodnikov, who battered Alvarado until he'd had enough.

The Future:
Alvarado's first bout back from the Provodnikov loss had not yet been set.

44.



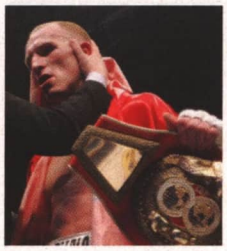
YURIORKIS GAMBOA

The Rundown:
Junior lightweight/ lightweight ★ Record: 23-0 (16 KOs) ★ Last year: 19

The Reasons:
Nearly all of the momentum that Gamboa once had is gone. It was bad enough that a planned featherweight fight with Juan Manuel Lopez fell out when Lopez lost to Orlando Salido. It was worse when Gamboa signed to face Brandon Rios at lightweight and then proceeded to go AWOL. His career was put on hold during a dispute with promoter Top Rank, and he hasn't been overly active since signing with 50 Cent. He returned from a 15-month layoff to defeat Michael Farenas in December 2012, then topped Darleys Perez in a boring bout in June 2013. The talent might still be there, but his lack of business acumen has gotten in the way. Being connected to a clinic that distributed performance-enhancing drugs hasn't helped his image either.

The Future:
Gamboa's next fight had not yet been set.

45.



KRZYSZTOF WLODARCZYK

The Rundown:
Cruiserweight with the WBC title ★ Record: 48-2-1 (34 KOs) ★ Last year: 90

The Reasons:
Wlodarczyk has been a fixture of the cruiserweight division for years, with his best run coming after he won a vacant world title in 2010 by knocking out Giacobbe Fragomeni. He has made five successful defenses since then, including trips to Australia to top Danny Green and to Russia to stop Rakhim Chakhkiev as well as a pair of decision wins over contender Francisco Palacios. This is Wlodarczyk's second time with a world title; the first came when he beat Steve Cunningham in 2006 by a controversial decision. Cunningham got an immediate rematch and got revenge.

The Future:
Wlodarczyk is scheduled to face Fragomeni on Dec. 6 in their third match against each other. Their first bout, in 2009, ended as a split draw.

46.

AKIRA YAEGASHI

The Rundown:
Flyweight with the RING and WBC titles ★ Record: 18-3 (9 KOs) ★ Last year: unranked

The Reasons:
Yaegashi is a little guy who received a large amount of attention following a pair of wars: a 10th-round knockout of Pornsawan Porpramook in 2011 that won him a world title at 105 pounds, and then a decision loss to fellow beltholder Kazuto Ioka in 2012. Both were among the best fights of their respective years. Since then, Yaegashi's jumped up two divisions to flyweight and defeated Toshiyuki Igarashi in April to become the true champion at 112, though not necessarily the best fighter in his weight class. His first defense, a decision over Oscar Blanquet, came in August.

The Future:
Yaegashi's next defense is expected to come against former 108-pound titleholder and current flyweight contender Edgar Sosa on Dec. 6.

47.

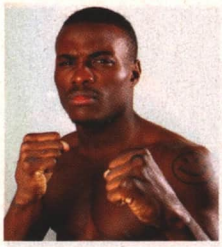
YOAN PABLO HERNANDEZ

The Rundown:
Cruiserweight with the RING and IBF titles ★ Record: 27-1 (13 KOs) ★ Last year: 51

The Reasons:
The earlier years of Hernandez's career brought several wins over the second and third tier of cruiserweights, those victories bookending a loss that came when he stepped up to face former titleholder Wayne Braithwaite in 2008. Braithwaite summarily dispatched him in three rounds. Hernandez moved toward the top of his division when he defeated Steve Cunningham, capturing and successfully defending a world title via back-to-back decisions in 2011 and 2012. Hernandez defended his belt once more with a win over Troy Ross in September 2012, then suffered a hand injury that sidelined him for much of 2013.

The Future:
Hernandez was scheduled to return on Nov. 23 against Alexander Alekseev.

48.



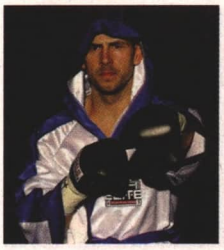
PETER QUILLIN

The Rundown:
Middleweight with the WBO title ★
Record: 29-0 (21 KOs) ★
Last year: 99

The Reasons:
Quillin's world title earned him recognition in the 160-pound division, but he has yet to get much in the way of respect that would come from facing bigger names. He might have to wait. After all, Quillin's tied to Showtime while two of the other major middleweights, Sergio Martinez and Gennady Golovkin, are being featured on HBO. Meanwhile, many of the other talents in his division usually fight overseas. That leaves Quillin with his victory over a comebacking Winky Wright, an enjoyable six-knockdown decision win against Hassan N'Dam N'Jikam that got him the title, and a knockout of Fernando Guerrero.

The Future:
Quillin was scheduled to face Gabriel Rosado on Oct. 26.

49.



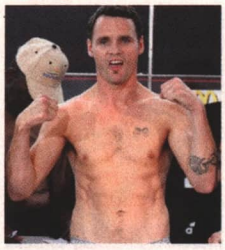
DARREN BARKER

The Rundown:
Middleweight with the IBF title ★
Record: 26-1 (16 KOs) ★
Last year: unranked

The Reasons:
Sometimes a loss will provide a fighter with a reality check, showing him that he's not as good as he thought he was. And sometimes that defeat will provide a fighter with a proverbial kick in the pants, motivating him to make changes in order to get better. That latter scenario is the case with Barker, who fought cautiously against middleweight champion Sergio Martinez and ultimately succumbed to a late knockout. Barker became more aggressive afterward, notching a pair of early victories before stepping in against Daniel Geale. Barker battled valiantly, rising at the last moment from a body-shot knockdown, to claim a very close split decision and a world title.

The Future:
Barker is scheduled to face former titleholder Felix Sturm on Dec. 7.

50.



DANIEL GEALE

The Rundown:
Middleweight ★
Record: 29-2 (15 KOs) ★
Last year: 22

The Reasons:
Geale was one second and one point away from still holding a world title. He lost that belt in August, dropping a close fight to Darren Barker following a fun back-and-forth bout. Geale floored Barker in the sixth with a body shot, and Barker just barely beat the count. The 12th round very easily could have gone to Geale, but two judges scored it for Barker instead. That proved to be the deciding round on one of the judges' scorecards, giving the split decision win to Barker. Geale had held his title for two years, unifying it with a split decision over Felix Sturm in 2012 and then topping Anthony Mundine this past January (avenging Geale's only other defeat).

The Future:
Geale's next fight had not yet been set.

51.

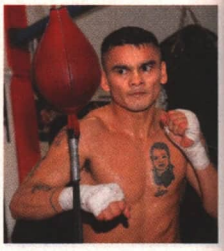
KOKI KAMEDA

The Rundown:
Bantamweight
Record: 31-1 (17 KOs) ★
Last year: 48

The Reasons:
Kameda is one of three brothers to have won world titles. Koki was the first. His first title win came at junior flyweight in 2006. He then had one successful defense of that belt before moving up in weight. Kameda's 2009 win over Daisuke Naito made him the lineal champion at 112 pounds. That distinction didn't last long; Kameda lost to Pongsaklek Wonjongkam in his next outing. Kameda's recent run at bantamweight hasn't been definitive, as he's escaped multiple fights with close or controversial decisions.

The Future:
If Kameda wins his next fight, against Jung-Oh Son on Nov. 19, he's expected to challenge top bantamweight Anselmo Moreno.

52.



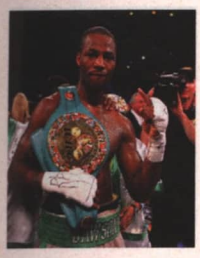
MARCOS MAIDANA

The Rundown:
Welterweight ★
Record: 34-3 (31 KOs) ★
Last year: 58

The Reasons:
Maidana is hit and miss. He lost a close split decision to Andreas Kotelnik in 2009, then followed that up by making Victor Ortiz fold in a thrilling war. He rocked Amir Khan late in their December 2010 bout but failed to finish him off and lost on the scorecards. One fight later, he struggled at times with an aging Erik Morales before coming out with a majority-decision win. Maidana moved up to welterweight in early 2012, only to be manhandled by Devon Alexander. Since then, and since switching to trainer Robert Garcia, he has stopped Jesus Soto Karass and Josesito Lopez. While Maidana hasn't been good enough to beat his best foes, he has shown himself to be better than some respectable opponents.

The Future:
Maidana is expected to challenge welterweight titleholder Adrien Broner on Dec. 14.

53.

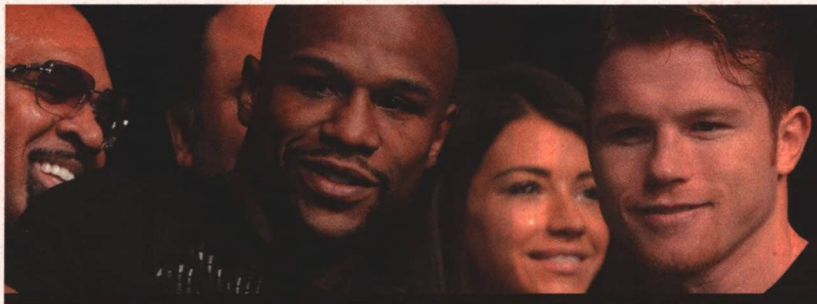


CHAD
DAWSON

The Rundown:
Light heavyweight ★ Record: 31-3 (17 KOs) ★ Last year's ranking: 13

The Reasons:
Dawson is ranked this high after consecutive losses because of who he lost to and how. In September 2012 he dropped down to 168 to take on the champion, Andre Ward, one of the best fighters in the sport. Ward demolished Dawson, flooring him three times in the process. Dawson then returned to light heavyweight to defend his RING championship in June against Adonis Stevenson and was promptly dethroned by the first clean, powerful left hand that landed. Dawson had a good run at 175 pounds years ago, beating Tomasz Adamek to capture a title in 2007 and adding two victories apiece over Glen Johnson and Antonio Tarver. His only notable win since then came in 2012, when he outpointed then-champ Bernard Hopkins. The other loss came in 2010 against Jean Pascal, making Dawson 2-3 with one no-contest in his past six appearances.

The Future:
Dawson hadn't yet announced any comeback plans.



The welterweight division, led by Floyd Mayweather Jr. (left), has the most fighters – 15 – in the RING 100.

RING *100* BY DIVISION

The number of ranked fighters in each of the 17 weight classes

Heavyweight
7. Wladimir Klitschko
12. Vitali Klitschko
54. David Haye
55. Alexander Povetkin
76. Kubrat Pulev

Cruiserweight
24. Marco Huck
45. Krzysztof Wlodarczyk
47. Yoan Pablo Hernandez

Light heavyweight
16. Bernard Hopkins
28. Adonis Stevenson
33. Sergey Kovalev
53. Chad Dawson
58. Jean Pascal
68. Lucian Bute
74. Julio Cesar Chavez Jr.
78. Nathan Cleverly

Super middleweight
2. Andre Ward
9. Carl Froch
39. Mikkel Kessler
61. Robert Stieglitz
67. Edwin Rodriguez
68. Lucian Bute
74. Julio Cesar Chavez Jr.
100. Arthur Abraham

Middleweight
4. Sergio Martinez
19. Gennady Golovkin
48. Peter Quillin
49. Darren Barker
50. Daniel Geale
57. Felix Sturm
64. Martin Murray

Junior middleweight
1. Floyd Mayweather Jr.
25. Canelo Alvarez
32. Austin Trout
36. Miguel Cotto
42. Erislandy Lara
56. Carlos Molina
94. Vanes Martirosyan

Welterweight
1. Floyd Mayweather Jr.
3. Timothy Bradley
5. Juan Manuel Marquez
6. Manny Pacquiao
17. Adrien Broner
26. Devon Alexander
34. Robert Guerrero
37. Ruslan Provodnikov
38. Brandon Rios
52. Marcos Maidana
66. Amir Khan
75. Keith Thurman
81. Paulie Malignaggi
82. Kell Brook
83. Antonio DeMarco

Junior welterweight
11. Danny Garcia
20. Lucas Matthysse
37. Ruslan Provodnikov
38. Brandon Rios
43. Mike Alvarado
62. Lamont Peterson
66. Amir Khan
77. Denis Shafikov
83. Antonio DeMarco
86. Khabib Allakhverdiev
91. Zab Judah

Lightweight
17. Adrien Broner
41. Miguel Vazquez
44. Yuriorkis Gamboa
63. Richar Abril
72. Ricky Burns
73. Ray Beltran
77. Denis Shafikov
96. Terence Crawford

Junior lightweight
15. Mikey Garcia
30. Takashi Uchiyama
44. Yuriorkis Gamboa
87. Argenis Mendez
88. Takashi Miura
90. Roman Martinez

Featherweight
10. Nonito Donaire
18. Chris John
22. Jhonny Gonzalez
23. Abner Mares
60. Orlando Salido
70. Daniel Ponce De Leon
80. Evgeny Gradovich
97. Nicholas Walters

Junior featherweight
8. Guillermo Rigondeaux
40. Leo Santa Cruz
95. Carl Frampton

Bantamweight
14. Anselmo Moreno
29. Shinsuke Yamanaka
51. Koki Kameda
65. Juan Carlos Sanchez Jr.
98. Tomoki Kameda

Junior bantamweight
31. Omar Narvaez
99. Srisaket Sor Rungvisai

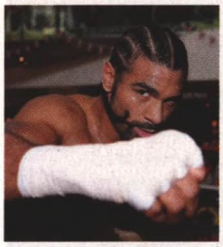
Flyweight
13. Roman Gonzalez
27. Juan Francisco Estrada
35. Brian Viloria
46. Akira Yaegashi
59. Moruti Mthalane
79. Edgar Sosa
85. Hernan Marquez

Junior flyweight
21. Kazuto Ioka
69. Donnie Nietes
71. Moises Fuentes
84. Adrian Hernandez
93. Johnriel Casimero

Strawweight
89. Hekkie Budler
92. Ryo Miyazaki

Note: 110 fighters are listed here because 10 who straddle two divisions are included in both.

54.



DAVID **HAYE**

The Rundown:
Heavyweight ★ Record: 26-2 (24 KOs) ★ Last year: 49

The Reasons:
Haye is clearly talented but maddeningly inactive, and that's not just in reference to his putrid performance against Wladimir Klitschko in 2011. That description also applies to his time in the heavyweight division. Haye became the true cruiserweight champion in 2007 by stopping Jean-Marc Mormeck, demolishing Enzo Maccarinelli in his sole defense and then jumping up in weight. In late 2009, a year after his heavyweight debut, he beat Nikolay Valuev by decision for a world title, defended it successfully against John Ruiz and Audley Harrison for his 2010 campaign, and then met Klitschko in July 2011. Alas, Haye was all talk and very little action. Klitschko won, and Haye retired months later. He came back in July 2012 to dispose of Dereck Chisora, then returned to the sidelines once again.

The Future:
Haye's fight with prospect Tyson Fury, originally scheduled for Sept. 28, was postponed because of a cut Haye suffered very late in training camp. The new date for their bout could be Feb. 8, 2014.

55.

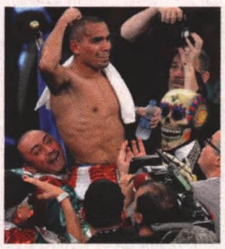
ALEXANDER **POVETKIN**

The Rundown:
Heavyweight ★ Record: 26-1 (18 KOs) ★ Last year: 52

The Reasons:
Years after Povetkin was originally supposed to challenge Wladimir Klitschko, they finally fought on Oct. 5. The result, a decision win for Klitschko full of clinching and holding, proved that Povetkin is not the best heavyweight in the world — not for now, at least. The Olympic gold medalist showed promise earlier in his career when he beat Chris Byrd and Eddie Chambers, but then he treaded water for years and avoided a Klitschko fight he'd won the right to have. His recent pre-Klitschko run saw him top Ruslan Chagaev in 2011, then score knockouts of two old, faded fighters and one young, unproven prospect, plus one controversial majority decision over cruiserweight titleholder Marco Huck. Povetkin still has time to prove himself, but he'll have to wait until Klitschko's time in the sport is over.

The Future:
Povetkin's post-Klitschko plans had not yet been made.

56.



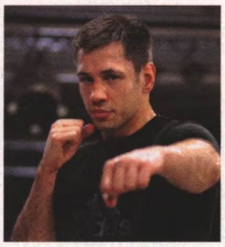
CARLOS **MOLINA**

The Rundown:
Junior middleweight with the IBF title ★ Record: 22-5-2 (6 KOs) ★ Last year: unranked

The Reasons:
He's often ugly to watch, but Molina is effective enough to be in the mix and hold a world title in a crowded junior middleweight division. It didn't always seem as if that success and respect would come. Nearly eight years ago, he fought a developing Julio Cesar Chavez Jr. twice, those bouts ending in a draw and a Molina loss, decisions that many questioned. He also dropped a majority decision to then-prospect Mike Alvarado in 2007. Yet Molina kept fighting and kept improving. Some felt he deserved to win a 2011 draw with Erislandy Lara. He also was ahead late on the scorecards against James Kirkland in 2012 when he was controversially disqualified. But 2013 has been Molina's breakthrough year. He beat Cory Spinks in February to win a title shot, then won a belt in September with a split decision over Ishe Smith.

The Future:
Molina's first title defense hadn't been set.

57.



FELIX **STURM**

The Rundown:
Middleweight ★ Record: 38-3-2 (17 KOs) ★ Last year: 71

The Reasons:
Nearly a decade has passed since Sturm lost a controversial decision and a world title to Oscar De La Hoya. He's long since been back among the top middleweights, capturing world titles twice more, with his last and longest reign lasting from 2007 to 2012 and including 10 wins and two draws in his defenses. Those final bouts included a controversial win over Matthew Macklin and a draw against Martin Murray. Sturm dropped his belt in a split decision to Daniel Geale in late 2012. He lost again early in 2013 against Sam Soliman; that was overturned after Soliman's post-fight drug test came up positive for a banned substance. Sturm got back in the win column in July, when he stopped unbeaten Predrag Radosevic.

The Future:
Sturm is scheduled to challenge Darren Barker on Dec. 7 for the world title Barker won from Geale in August.

58.

JEAN **PASCAL**

The Rundown:
Light heavyweight ★ Record: 28-2-1 (17 KOs) ★ Last year: 39

The Reasons:
It's been a rough past few years for Jean Pascal. He had just become THE RING's champion at light heavyweight in 2010 with his win over Chad Dawson when he was held to a draw by Bernard Hopkins a few months later. A rematch in 2011 would prove even worse for Pascal, as Hopkins topped him to take over the throne. Injuries then sidelined Pascal for a year and a half; he returned in December 2012 with a decision win over Aleksy Kuziemski. This past September, Pascal stopped George Blades, keeping busy after the postponement of a long-discussed bout with fellow Montreal star Lucian Bute.

The Future:
Pascal-Bute is scheduled to take place on Jan. 18.

59.

MORUTI **MTHALANE**

The Rundown:
Flyweight with the IBF title ★
Record: 29-2 (20 KOs) ★
Last year: 76

The Reasons:
Mthalane has done pretty well for himself since losing on cuts to Nonito Donaire back in 2008. A year after that defeat, Mthalane captured a vacant flyweight world title with a unanimous decision over Julio Cesar Miranda, who soon went on to win a belt himself. Mthalane's made four successful defenses since, stopping undefeated prospect Zolani Tete, scoring a technical knockout of Johnriel Casimero (who has since become a titleholder at 108) and then traveling into Italy and Panama and knocking out foes in hostile territory. He then entered an inactive stretch, having last fought in September 2012.

The Future:
Mthalane's next fight had not yet been set.

60.

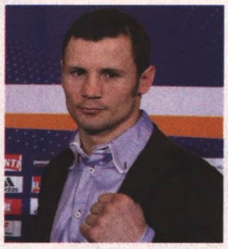
ORLANDO **SALIDO**

The Rundown:
Featherweight with the WBO title ★
Record: 40-12-2 (28 KOs) ★
Last year: 20

The Reasons:
Salido's technical knockout of Orlando Cruz in October earned him a vacant world title and showed that he's still at a higher level than a certain tier of featherweights. It remains to be seen just how he will fare against today's top 126-pounders. Salido's two wins over Juan Manuel Lopez are now somewhat in the past, having happened in 2011 and 2012. Of more recent history is his fight with Mikey Garcia this past January. Garcia dropped Salido four times early, though Salido was battling back when the bout ended in the eighth round as a result of an accidental head butt. Salido's a tough, gritty vet. Eight of his losses came early in his career. The rest came against Garcia, Yuriorkis Gamboa in 2010, Cristobal Cruz in 2008 (avenged later) and Juan Manuel Marquez in 2004.

The Future:
Salido could end up defending his title in early 2014 against highly touted two-time Olympic gold medalist Vasyl Lomachenko.

61.



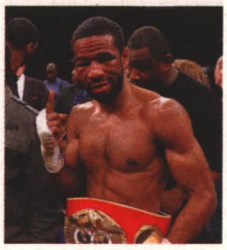
ROBERT **STIEGLITZ**

The Rundown:
Super middleweight with the WBO title ★
Record: 46-3 (26 KOs) ★
Last year: unranked

The Reasons:
Years ago, Stieglitz looked as if he'd never belong in the world title picture at super middleweight, not after he'd been knocked out in three rounds by Alejandro Berrio in 2007 and stopped in eight by Librado Andrade in 2008. Yet here Stieglitz is, a two-time titleholder who won his first belt in 2009, then defended it successfully six times before losing to Arthur Abraham in 2012. Stieglitz got emphatic revenge this past March, hammering Abraham, stopping him early and regaining his title. He has defended it successfully twice since. With that said, Stieglitz's wins still haven't shown that he's on the same level as the top three at 168: Andre Ward, Carl Froch and Mikkel Kessler.

The Future:
Stieglitz's next fight had not been set.

62.



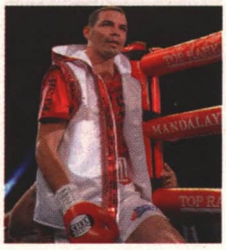
LAMONT **PETERSON**

The Rundown:
Junior welterweight ★
Record: 31-2-1 (16 KOs) ★
Last year: 28

The Reasons:
The rollercoaster ride that is Peterson's career came to an abrupt halt in May, when Lucas Matthysse steamrolled over him, knocking him down three times and scoring a third-round stoppage. The loss ended any hope Peterson might have had for belonging at the top of the 140-pound division. Since his 2009 decision loss to Timothy Bradley, Peterson had fought Victor Ortiz to a draw, knocked out Victor Cayo, won a controversial split decision over Amir Khan, admitted months later to having synthetic testosterone in his system during the Khan fight (his camp claimed it was for legitimate medical reasons), had the Khan rematch canceled, sat on the shelf for 14 months, then returned with a win over Kendall Holt.

The Future:
Peterson's return hasn't been announced.

63.



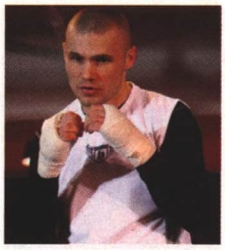
RICHAR **ABRIL**

The Rundown:
Lightweight with the WBA title ★
Record: 18-3-1 (8 KOs) ★
Last year: 94

The Reasons:
It was questionable judging that kept Richar Abril from scoring a decision win over Brandon Rios back in April 2012. But it is Abril's style that has kept him from being much more than a lightweight titleholder who few want to fight and few want to see. His style might also explain why those three blemishes on his record are split decisions: to Breidis Prescott in 2008, Henry Lundy in 2010 and Rios. Abril has earned a pair of big wins in the past couple years, outpointing Miguel Acosta in 2011 and Sharif Bogere in 2013, the latter victory coming on Showtime.

The Future:
Abril was scheduled to face Jorge Linares on Nov. 10.

64.



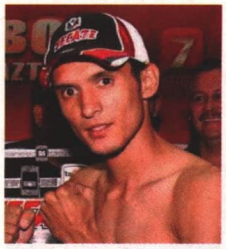
MARTIN **MURRAY**

The Rundown:
Middleweight ★
Record: 25-1-1 (11 KOs) ★
Last year: unranked

The Reasons:
Murray came up short in title challenges twice in the span of a year and a half, but his performances gave indications of where the British middleweight might just belong in the 160-pound division. He traveled to Germany in 2011 to face Felix Sturm, leaving with a draw. And this past April he went to Argentina to face RING champion Sergio Martinez, knocking him down but losing a unanimous decision in a close fight. Those are the only bouts Murray has failed to win in his six-year career, though those also represented significant steps up in level of competition. He should feel encouraged to challenge himself once again.

The Future:
Murray is expected to face Garth Wood on Dec. 11.

65.



JUAN CARLOS **SANCHEZ JR.**

The Rundown:
Bantamweight ★
Record: 17-1-1 (9 KOs) ★
Last year: 91

The Reasons:
This former 115-pound titleholder is winning in the ring but losing the battle of the scale. Sanchez's lone defeat came when he was 19, a knockout loss to fellow prospect Daniel Rosas. He has gone on to outpoint future flyweight titleholder Juan Francisco Estrada in 2011 and pick up a belt of his own at junior bantamweight with a 2012 win against Rodrigo Guerrero. Sanchez made two successful defenses before coming in slightly overweight for his June decision win over Roberto Sosa. That left his belt vacant, and Sanchez moved up. Yet he failed to make weight again for a bout in September, coming in at 119 pounds, two pounds over the contractual limit.

The Future:
Sanchez was scheduled to face Zolani Tete on Nov. 2.

Amir Khan has the talent to be high on the list but several disappointments have kept him down.

66.

AMIR **KHAN**

The Rundown:
Junior welterweight/ welterweight ★ Record: 28-3 (19 KOs) ★ Last year: 32

The Reasons:
Khan's physical gifts got him to where he is, but all of his talent hasn't been enough to overcome his inherent flaws and defensive liabilities. Khan's great speed was key during his run as a junior welterweight titleholder, which began in 2009 with a win over Andreas Kotelnik and continued for two years and five successful defenses, including victories against Marcos Maidana and Zab Judah. That all ended with a close and controversial loss to Lamont Peterson in late 2011, followed by a stoppage loss against Danny Garcia in 2012. Khan's comeback under new trainer Virgil Hunter has also been shaky; his April win over Julio Diaz saw the resurfacing of his long-known combination of open chin and shaky whiskers.

The Future:
After a long-negotiated bout with welterweight titleholder Devon Alexander fell apart, Khan seems to be positioning himself as a candidate for a bout with Floyd Mayweather Jr.

67.

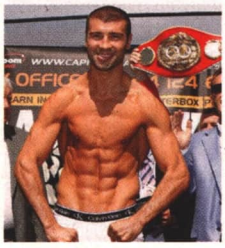
EDWIN **RODRIGUEZ**

The Rundown:
Super middleweight ★ Record: 24-0 (16 KOs) ★ Last year: unranked

The Reasons:
Rodriguez made a big statement in July, obliterating Denis Grachev in less than a round. It was by far the best performance yet for a prospect who'd previously been seen on HBO against Donovan George and Jason Escalera, and on Showtime getting a too-wide decision over Will Rosinsky. With that said, Grachev is far from the level of Rodriguez's next opponent, super middleweight champion Andre Ward. Still, Grachev was coming off wins over Ismayl Sillakh and Zsolt Erdei, as well as a loss to Lucian Bute, and no one had ever done to him what Rodriguez did. That big statement earned Rodriguez a big opportunity.

The Future:
Rodriguez was scheduled to challenge Ward on Nov. 16.

68.



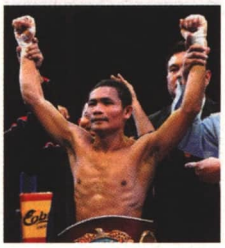
LUCIAN **BUTE**

The Rundown:
Super middleweight/light heavyweight ★ Record: 31-1 (24 KOs) ★ Last year: 36

The Reasons:
It wasn't too long ago that Bute was considered one of the best fighters at 168 and a glaring omission from Showtime's "Super Six" tournament. He held a world title starting in 2007, making nine successful defenses through the end of 2011. It seemed as if the troubles Bute had faced at the end of his first bout with Librado Andrade were far behind him. Then he fought Carl Froch, who clobbered Bute around the ring en route to a fifth-round stoppage in May 2012. Bute didn't exactly impress in his comeback win against Denis Grachev later that year, either. He hasn't fought since, and one wonders whether his upcoming bout with Jean Pascal will bring redemption or a cashing-out of his career.

The Future:
Bute's fight with Pascal is scheduled to take place on Jan. 18.

69.



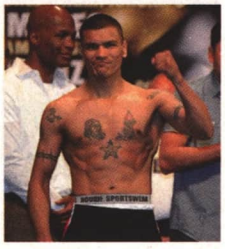
DONNIE **NIETES**

The Rundown:
Junior flyweight with the WBO title ★ Record: 31-1-4 (17 KOs) ★ Last year: unranked

The Reasons:
Nietes hasn't lost a bout since 2004, when he traveled to Indonesia and dropped a split decision to Angky Angkotta, who was not only the hometown fighter but was six pounds overweight as well. Since then, Nietes went on to capture a vacant strawweight world title in 2007 by outpointing then-undefeated Pornsawan Porpramook. He made four successful defenses, including a win over Mario Rodriguez, before moving up to 108. Nietes won a belt there in late 2011, defended it successfully once in 2012 and then with a draw to Moises Fuentes this past March.

The Future:
Nietes' next fight had not yet been set.

70.



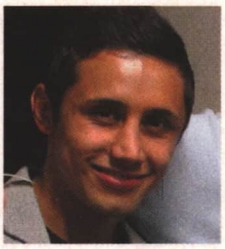
DANIEL **PONCE DE LEON**

The Rundown:
Featherweight ★ Record: 44-5 (35 KOs) ★ Last year: 38

The Reasons:
Ponce De Leon has been a fixture at 122 and 126 for several years and has captured world titles in both divisions. Yet he has lost every time he's stepped up. His first defeat came in 2005 against Celestino Caballero. Ponce De Leon won a vacant belt at junior featherweight later that year, making six successful defenses (including a too-wide win over Gerry Penalosa). That reign ended in 2008, in the first round against Juan Manuel Lopez. Ponce De Leon gave Adrien Broner a close fight in 2011, then lost a technical decision to Yuriorkis Gamboa. He picked up a world title at featherweight in 2012 against Jhonny Gonzalez and lost it one fight later, via technical knockout to Abner Mares.

The Future:
Ponce De Leon's first fight back from the Mares loss had not yet been set, though it could involve a move up to junior lightweight.

71.



MOISES FUENTES

The Rundown:
Junior flyweight ★
Record: 18-1-1 (9 KOs) ★
Last year: unranked

The Reasons:
Fuentes began 2013 by moving from 105 to 108 and taking on Donnie Nietes in Nietes' home country and exiting with a draw that has since led to talk about a rematch. Fuentes' lone loss came on a split decision in early 2011. Before that year was out, he had a strawweight world title belt around his waist. Fuentes defended it successfully twice. The last defense came against Ivan Calderon, the longtime 105- and 108-pound titleholder who Fuentes sent into retirement with a fifth-round technical knockout.

The Future:
After the Nietes draw, Fuentes fought again in June and September. He is expected to return to the ring again soon.

72.

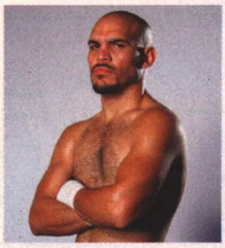
RICKY BURNS

The Rundown:
Lightweight with the WBO title ★
Record: 36-2-1 (11 KOs) ★
Last year: 53

The Reasons:
The past two fights have been tough for Burns. He was losing on the scorecards to unbeaten challenger Jose Gonzalez in May before Gonzalez quit late, citing an injury. And then in September, Ray Beltran broke Burns' jaw, knocked him down and appeared to have done enough for the victory – only for the bout to end as a draw instead. Burns had won a world title at 130 by beating Roman Martinez in 2010, making three successful defenses before moving up to 135. He has held a belt at lightweight for about two years, though it's proper to wonder if recent performances show his time with the title to be running out.

The Future:
Burns is expected to return in early 2014, either against mandatory challenger Terence Crawford or perhaps in a rematch with Beltran.

73.



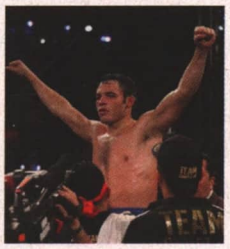
RAYMUNDO BELTRAN

The Rundown:
Lightweight ★
Record: 28-6-1 (17 KOs) ★
Last year: unranked

The Reasons:
Beltran was long known as a tough journeyman who had been a regular sparring partner to Manny Pacquiao. Of late, however, Beltran has sought to prove himself as more than that. After suffering close decision losses to Sharif Bogere in 2011 and Luis Ramos Jr. in early 2012, Beltran has been on a good run. He won three in a row, including decisions over Henry Lundy and Ji-Hoon Kim, before stepping in with lightweight titleholder Ricky Burns. Beltran broke Burns' jaw early and scored a knockdown later, but could only leave with a draw.

The Future:
Beltran's team was attempting to get a rematch with Burns.

74.



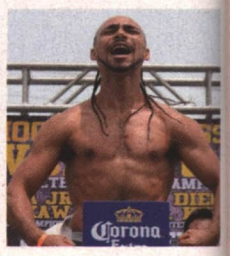
JULIO CESAR CHAVEZ JR.

The Rundown:
Super middleweight/light heavyweight ★
Record: 47-1-1 (32 KOs) ★
Last year: 50

The Reasons:
Chavez had one round nearly bring him to glory, followed by one year of inactivity. His return reminded us of why so many dislike him. Chavez essentially had his amateur career in the pro ranks, starting as a lightweight teen and growing ultimately into a middleweight titleholder. There were questionable decisions along the way, both from the judges (against Carlos Molina) and from Chavez himself (he used a diuretic prior to one fight, was arrested for driving drunk before another). Chavez was outboxed by champion Sergio Martinez for 11 rounds before dropping him in the 12th. He lost, though, and tested positive for marijuana afterward. He came in much heavier than initially agreed upon against Bryan Vera in September, and then escaped with a controversial decision win.

The Future:
Chavez could be headed toward a rematch with Vera.

75.



KEITH THURMAN

The Rundown:
Welterweight ★
Record: 21-0 (19 KOs) ★
Last year: unranked

The Reasons:
Thurman's relative success has been somewhat unexpected to those who questioned his debut appearance on premium cable less than a year and a half ago. A fighter who appeared to be a limited slugger has been showing signs of improvement, though. Thurman retired Carlos Quintana in late 2012, outpointed former world titleholder Jan Zaveck this past March, then knocked out unbeaten prospect Diego Chaves in July. He has power, and he has personality, but it's still to be determined whether he has the goods.

The Future:
A fight with Jesus Soto Karass is expected to take place on Dec. 14.

76.

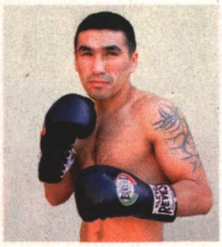
KUBRAT **PULEV**

The Rundown:
Heavyweight ★ Record: 18-0 (9 KOs) ★ Last year: unranked

The Reasons:
Pulev has finished the phase of nearly every up-and-coming fighter's career that includes wins over designated fall guys and measuring-stick opponents. His past three appearances have brought him stoppage victories over fellow prospects Alexander Dimitrenko and Alexander Ustinov, as well as a unanimous decision over Tony Thompson. Though Thompson is in his early 40s, he had just come off two straight technical knockouts of David Price. That placed Pulev into position to challenge heavyweight titleholder Wladimir Klitschko.

The Future:
Pulev's next fight had not yet been set.

77.



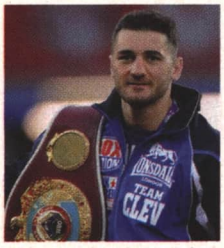
DENIS **SHAFIKOV**

The Rundown:
Lightweight/junior welterweight ★ Record: 33-0-1 (18 KOs) ★ Last year: unranked

The Reasons:
Shafikov is poised to make moves after nearly three dozen pro fights, most of which have been in his native Russia and in Finland, where he'd been signed to a promoter. He made his U.S. debut in August after signing with Top Rank, and he's been training out of the famed Wild Card Boxing Club. Some of his notable recent wins came against Alisher Rahimov (who'd beaten Rustam Nugaev and Sergio Thompson), Albert Mensah (who topped Michael Katsidis) and Brunet Zamora (in a rematch of an earlier draw).

The Future:
Shafikov's next fight hadn't been set yet.

78.



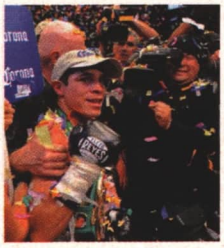
NATHAN **CLEVERLY**

The Rundown:
Light heavyweight ★ Record: 26-1 (12 KOs) ★ Last year: 73

The Reasons:
For a time, we heard Cleverly call out some of the bigger names in the light heavyweight division, particularly Bernard Hopkins. Those dreams were washed away dramatically and emphatically in August, when Sergey Kovalev beat Cleverly so badly that the referee was seen helping the Welshman back to his corner after he was knocked down twice in the third round. The fight ended soon after in the fourth, simultaneously ending a reign that included five successful defenses. Cleverly does hold victories over Tony Bellew and Karo Murat, but the Kovalev defeat is the most recent and most memorable event in his career.

The Future:
The first step in Cleverly's attempt at rebuilding had not yet been set.

79.



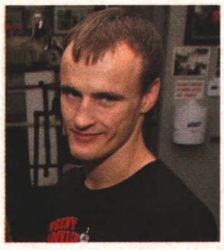
EDGAR **SOSA**

The Rundown:
Flyweight ★ Record: 49-7 (29 KOs) ★ Last year: unranked

The Reasons:
Five of Sosa's seven losses came within his first 17 fights. That makes him 37-2 during the past decade, including victories over nine former world titleholders. Sosa won a belt at 108 pounds in 2007 with a win over Brian Viloria, then successfully defended it 10 times in a very active 2½-year stretch. He lost the belt to Rodel Mayol in 2009, a second-round stoppage precipitated by a bad head butt. His only other defeat since then came at flyweight in 2011 against then-champion Pongsaklek Wonjongkam. Sosa remains in contention at 112 pounds and has scored recent wins over Ulises Solis and Giovani Segura.

The Future:
Sosa's next fight is expected to come against flyweight champion Akira Yaegashi on Dec. 6.

80.



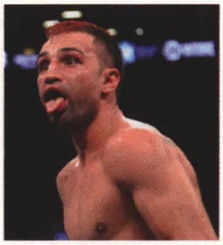
EVGENY **GRADOVICH**

The Rundown:
Featherweight with the IBF title ★ Record: 17-0 (8 KOs) ★ Last year: unranked

The Reasons:
"The Mexican Russian" won his first world title against an Australian in Connecticut, and since then he's been boxing out of the Chinese gambling destination of Macau. Gradovich ironically has not fought either in Russia or Mexico as a pro. But what he has done under trainer Robert Garcia is beat Billy Dib via split decision for a belt in March, then defend it successfully against Mauricio Munoz in July. He's enjoyable to watch, and that's no surprise, given that the "Mexican" part of his nickname came from the way he fights in the gym.

The Future:
Gradovich was scheduled to make his second straight Macau appearance in a Nov. 23 rematch with Dib.

81.



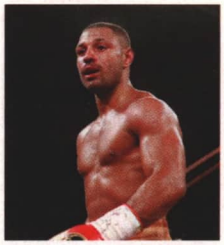
PAULIE
MALIGNAGGI

The Rundown:
Welterweight ★ Record: 32-5 (7 KOs) ★ Last year: 57

The Reasons:
Blessed with boxing ability but little power, Malignaggi's first big shot was a brave stand in a defeat to Miguel Cotto in 2006. He won a world title a year later but lost it against 140-pound champion Ricky Hatton in 2008. He railed against the judging for his first fight with Juan Diaz, then won a decision in their rematch. Malignaggi's final junior welterweight fight saw him get stopped by titleholder Amir Khan. As a welterweight, Paulie traveled to Ukraine and beat Vyacheslav Senchenko for his second world title, defended it controversially with a win over Pablo Cano, then lost it in a split decision to Adrien Broner. He has accomplished more than many ever expected he would, though he likely believes he deserves even more credit.

The Future:
Malignaggi is scheduled to face fellow Brooklynite Zab Judah on Dec. 7, fittingly in Brooklyn.

82.



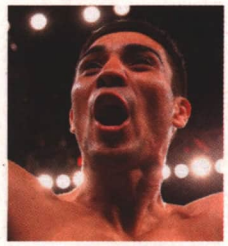
KELL
BROOK

The Rundown:
Welterweight ★ Record: 30-0 (20 KOs) ★ Last year: 85

The Reasons:
It says a lot about Brook's opposition so far that his promoter describes his next opponent, Vyacheslav Senchenko, as "levels beyond anything he's ever been in with before." It's true. Brook's biggest wins have come against Matthew Hatton, Carson Jones and Hector Saldivia. Jones pulled Brook into a grueling battle in 2012; Brook had a far better performance in their rematch this past July, winning via technical knockout. Senchenko is a former titleholder who lost to Paulie Malignaggi and then re-retired Ricky Hatton in 2012.

The Future:
Brook vs. Senchenko was scheduled to take place on Oct. 26.

83.



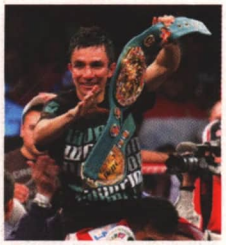
ANTONIO
DEMARCO

The Rundown:
Junior welterweight/ welterweight ★ Record: 29-3-1 (22 KOs) ★ Last year: 33

The Reasons:
All of the acclaim that DeMarco had received for his upset win against Jorge Linares and his first-round stoppage of John Molina didn't mean a thing when he stepped into the ring against the talents of Adrien Broner. On that night in November 2012, Broner picked DeMarco apart and ultimately stopped him in the eighth round. It was only the second loss for DeMarco in recent years, dating back to his technical knockout defeat against Edwin Valero in early 2010. The Broner fight showed that DeMarco wasn't the best at 135, and since then he's made a move for heavier divisions. He returned this past August a pound and a half under the welterweight limit and could end up settling into the 140-pound weight class soon.

The Future:
DeMarco's next fight had not yet been set.

84.



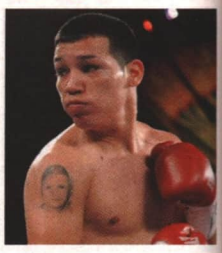
ADRIAN
HERNANDEZ

The Rundown:
Junior flyweight with the WBC title ★ Record: 28-2-1 (17 KOs) ★ Last year: unranked

The Reasons:
Hernandez is in his second run with a world title at 108 pounds, though his reigns have lasted less than two years combined. He picked up a belt in April 2011, made one successful defense and then lost it that December via knockout to Kompayak Porpramook. Hernandez got a rematch with Porpramook in October 2012, though, and scored a knockout of his own. Since then, he has defended his belt with two wins by decision and one by technical knockout. Hernandez had to come off the canvas early in his win this past August.

The Future:
Hernandez's next defense had not yet been set.

85.



HERNAN
MARQUEZ

The Rundown:
Flyweight ★ Record: 36-3 (26 KOs) ★ Last year: 63

The Reasons:
Marquez had a chance to unify two world titles in the flyweight division but instead wound up with none, losing via 10th-round technical knockout to Brian Viloria. That was in late 2012, and since then Marquez has won two fights, with his next bout likely to put the winner into a mandatory position to challenge 112-pound titleholder Juan Francisco Estrada. Marquez's other defeats came in 2010 against Richie Mepranum (who he later beat in a rematch) and Nonito Donaire (a 115-pounder at the time). He won a world title in a thrilling April 2011 fight with Luis Concepcion, making two successful defenses later that year, including an emphatic first-round stoppage in a rematch with Concepcion.

The Future:
Marquez vs. Giovani Segura was scheduled for Nov. 2.

86.

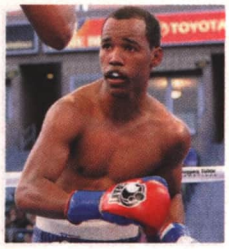
KHABIB ALLAKHVERDIEV

The Rundown:
Junior welterweight ★ Record: 19-0 (9 KOs) ★ Last year: unranked

The Reasons:
Allakhverdiev is on the outside looking in, or rather looking on as the other top junior welterweights pair off against each other. After knocking out Kaizer Mabuza and then giving Joan Guzman his first pro loss (via a split technical decision), Allakhverdiev was poised to make his HBO debut this past March against Breidis Prescott. But when he suffered an injury in training camp, Allakhverdiev was replaced by Terence Crawford, who went on to impress against Prescott and has appeared on HBO twice since. Allakhverdiev returned to the ring in July, stopping Souleymane M'baye. He still awaits a shot at the big names in the division.

The Future:
Allakhverdiev's next fight had not yet been set.

87.



ARGENIS MENDEZ

The Rundown:
Junior lightweight with the IBF title ★ Record: 21-2-1 (11 KOs) ★ Last year: unranked

The Reasons:
Mendez had been on the verge of grabbing a world title at junior lightweight before. He had topped Cassius Baloyi in early 2011 to win a shot at a belt, only to lose a decision to titleholder Juan Carlos Salgado later that year. But Mendez beat Martin Honorio in 2012 and received another shot at Salgado, and this time he scored a knockout and a place toward the top of the 130-pound division. His sole defense so far was in August, a draw with Arash Usmanee.

The Future:
Mendez's next title defense had not yet been scheduled.

88.

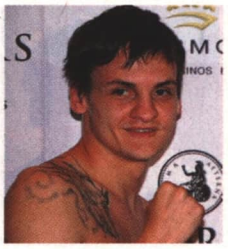
TAKASHI MIURA

The Rundown:
Junior lightweight with the WBC title ★ Record: 26-2-2 (19 KOs) ★ Last year: unranked

The Reasons:
Miura's most recent loss came back in early 2011, when he knocked down titleholder Takashi Uchiyama early but got stopped later on due to a cut. This past April, Miura picked up a belt of his own after knocking Gamaliel Diaz down four times and scoring a technical knockout. He made a successful defense in August, a tough fight with Sergio Thompson that saw both men hit the canvas but ended with Miura getting a close decision win.

The Future:
Miura's next title defense had not yet been set.

89.



HEKKIE BUDLER

The Rundown:
Strawweight ★ Record: 23-1 (6 KOs) ★ Last year: unranked

The Reasons:
Budler doesn't have much in the way of power, with only six knockouts overall and just three knockouts in his past 20 victories. That means a lot of decision wins, and a lot of split decisions. Nevertheless, he has found success, his lone loss coming as, you guessed it, a split decision in 2011. After that, Budler dropped from 108 pounds to 105 and hasn't lost since. His latest victory was perhaps the most noteworthy one yet, a controversial split decision over Nkosinathi Joyi (who holds a recent win over strawweight beltholder Katsunari Takayama).

The Future:
Budler was scheduled to face Hugo Verchelli on Nov. 9.

90.

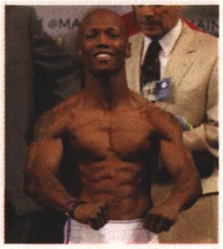
ROMAN MARTINEZ

The Rundown:
Junior lightweight with the WBO title ★ Record: 27-1-2 (16 KOs) ★ Last year: unranked

The Reasons:
Martinez's first run with a world title at 130 pounds had been based on knockouts. His second run hasn't brought easy victories. Martinez's title win over Miguel Beltran Jr. in September 2012 came out of an entertaining battle that the judges saw as a split decision. This past January, Martinez was fortunate to escape with a draw against Juan Carlos Burgos in a bout that observers felt Burgos deserved to win. And in April, Martinez topped previously undefeated Diego Magdaleno, again by split decision. His first title reign lasted from March 2009 to September 2010, ending with a decision loss to Ricky Burns.

The Future:
Martinez was scheduled to defend against Mikey Garcia on Nov. 9.

91.



ZAB **JUDAH**

The Rundown:
Junior welterweight ★ Record: 42-8 (29 KOs) ★ Last year: 67

The Reasons:
Judah keeps getting big fights despite the many times he has fallen short. He's someone who you can still picture being competitive against the top tier. This remains true after his decision loss this past April to Danny Garcia, a bout in which Judah, once derided as a frontrunner who fades late, instead gave Garcia trouble in the later rounds. Given Garcia's rise to 140-pound champion, Judah's performance that night speaks well for him, and it means another major bout for a fighter whose sole big win in recent years was a split decision over Lucas Matthysse in 2010. His other losses came against Amir Khan, Joshua Clottey, Miguel Cotto, Floyd Mayweather, Carlos Baldomir, Cory Spinks and Kostya Tszyu.

The Future:
Judah is scheduled to face Paulie Malignaggi in the main event of a Dec. 7 card.

92.

RYO **MIYAZAKI**

The Rundown:
Strawweight with the WBA title ★ Record: 20-0-3 (11 KOs) ★ Last year: unranked

The Reasons:
When Kazuto Ioka and Akira Yaegashi left the 105-pound division behind in favor of campaigning in heavier weight classes, it was Ryo Miyazaki who became the latest strawweight world titleholder from Japan. He won his belt by beating Pornsawan Porpramook by split decision in December 2012. In his first defense, Miyazaki was tied on the scorecards against Carlos Velarde after four rounds but scored a technical knockout in the fifth. And in September, Miyazaki edged Jesus Silvestre via majority decision.

The Future:
Miyazaki's next fight had not yet been set.

93.

JOHNRIEL **CASIMERO**

The Rundown:
Junior flyweight with the IBF title ★ Record: 18-2 (10 KOs) ★ Last year: unranked

The Reasons:
Casimero's two losses came back-to-back, a split-decision defeat in Mexico against Ramon Hirales in 2010 followed by a stoppage loss to flyweight titleholder Moruti Mthalane in 2011. Casimero returned to junior flyweight within a year, scoring a technical knockout over former beltholder Luis Lazarte to capture an interim title — a win that led to Lazarte's unhappy Argentine fans rioting in the venue. Casimero was soon made a "full" titleholder and returned in hostile territory, though comparatively less so. He won a split decision in Mexico over Pedro Guevara in August 2012 and then outpointed Luis Rios in Panama this past March.

The Future:
Casimero was scheduled to return home to the Philippines for his next fight, an Oct. 26 bout against Felipe Salguero.

94.

VANES **MARTIROSYAN**

The Rundown:
Junior middleweight ★ Record: 33-0-1 (21 KOs) ★ Last year: 100

The Reasons:
Martirosyan's rise through the ranks has been a gradual one. The 2004 Olympian turned pro in 2005 and was scheduled to fight for his first world title after more than 8½ years. He has turned down major fights, which delayed his ascent. Perhaps that's one reason it's difficult to find a truly significant win on his record. Martirosyan did beat Kassim Ouma and Joe Greene in 2010, and he fought to a technical draw with Erislandy Lara in 2012. Nevertheless, Martirosyan is a Top 10 junior middleweight who appears to have talent. And he'll finally have a chance to prove that in his next bout.

The Future:
Martirosyan was scheduled to face Demetrius Andrade for a vacant world title on Nov. 9.

95.

CARL **FRAMPTON**

The Rundown:
Junior featherweight ★ Record: 17-0 (12 KOs) ★ Last year: unranked

The Reasons:
Frampton has gone from prospect to contender after about four years of professional prizefighting, making himself yet another name to watch in the 122-pound division. His win over Kiko Martinez this past February is perhaps his most notable victory, particularly as Martinez went on to capture a world title in August. Frampton handled himself well against Martinez, ultimately scoring a ninth-round technical knockout. Prior to that fight, Frampton stopped two-time (but lightly regarded) titleholder Steve Molitor.

The Future:
Frampton's next fight had not yet been set.

96.

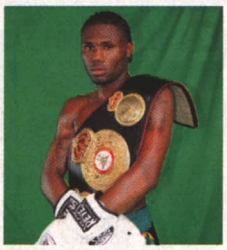
TERENCE CRAWFORD

The Rundown:
Lightweight ★
Record: 22-0 (16 KOs) ★
Last year: unranked

The Reasons:
Crawford gambled by stepping in on short notice and stepping up to 140 pounds to face Breidis Prescott in March on HBO, but he seized the opportunity extended to him and has benefited from that decision. His performance against Prescott earned him further appearances on the network as a lightweight; he stopped Alejandro Sanabria in June and outpointed Andrey Klimov in October. He has skills and the backing of network executives, and now he has a mandatory title shot at 135-pound titleholder Ricky Burns.

The Future:
Crawford's next appearance hadn't yet been set.

97.



NICHOLAS WALTERS

The Rundown:
Featherweight ★
Record: 22-0 (18 KOs) ★
Last year: unranked

The Reasons:
Walters is an undefeated up-and-coming featherweight who has scored technical knockouts in eight of his last nine appearances, a run that culminated in a seventh-round stoppage of Daulis Prescott in December 2012. He then didn't fight for much of 2013, though that seems primed to change now that Walters is being co-promoted by Top Rank. The promoter has several name fighters in and around the 126-pound division, which could mean major opportunities will soon be there for Walters.

The Future:
Walters was scheduled to fight on Nov. 9 against Alberto Garza.

98.

TOMOKI KAMEDA

The Rundown:
Bantamweight with the WBO title ★
Record: 28-0 (18 KOs) ★
Last year: unranked

The Reasons:
The youngest of the three Kameda brothers, Tomoki picked up his belt in August with a decision win over undefeated Paulus Ambunda. Kameda has shown a willingness to fight outside of Japan; 16 of his bouts have come in Mexico, compared to 11 in his home country, with the Ambunda victory taking place in the Philippines. Though he shares the division with his brother Koki, that won't keep Tomoki from finding big fights among a deep pool of talent at 118 pounds.

The Future:
Kameda's first title defense had not yet been set.

99.

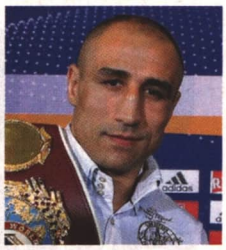
SRISAKET SOR RUNGVISAI

The Rundown:
Junior bantamweight with the WBC title ★
Record: 22-3-1 (20 KOs) ★
Last year: unranked

The Reasons:
Srisaket Sor Rungvisai is not to be confused with his unrelated promotional stablemate, Suriyan Sor Rungvisai, who held a world title at 115 pounds before losing it to Yota Sato in 2012. In turn, Sor Rungvisai fought Sato this past May and won the belt via technical knockout. Sor Rungvisai has fought three times since then, though none of those bouts were title defenses. He hasn't lost since early in his career, when he went 1-3-1 in his first five fights, losing his first two pro bouts by knockout, with his career debut coming against future RING champion Akira Yaegashi.

The Future: Sor Rungvisai was scheduled to make his first title defense against Hirofumi Mukai on Nov. 15.

100.



ARTHUR ABRAHAM

The Rundown:
Super middleweight ★
Record: 37-4 (28 KOs) ★
Last year: 60

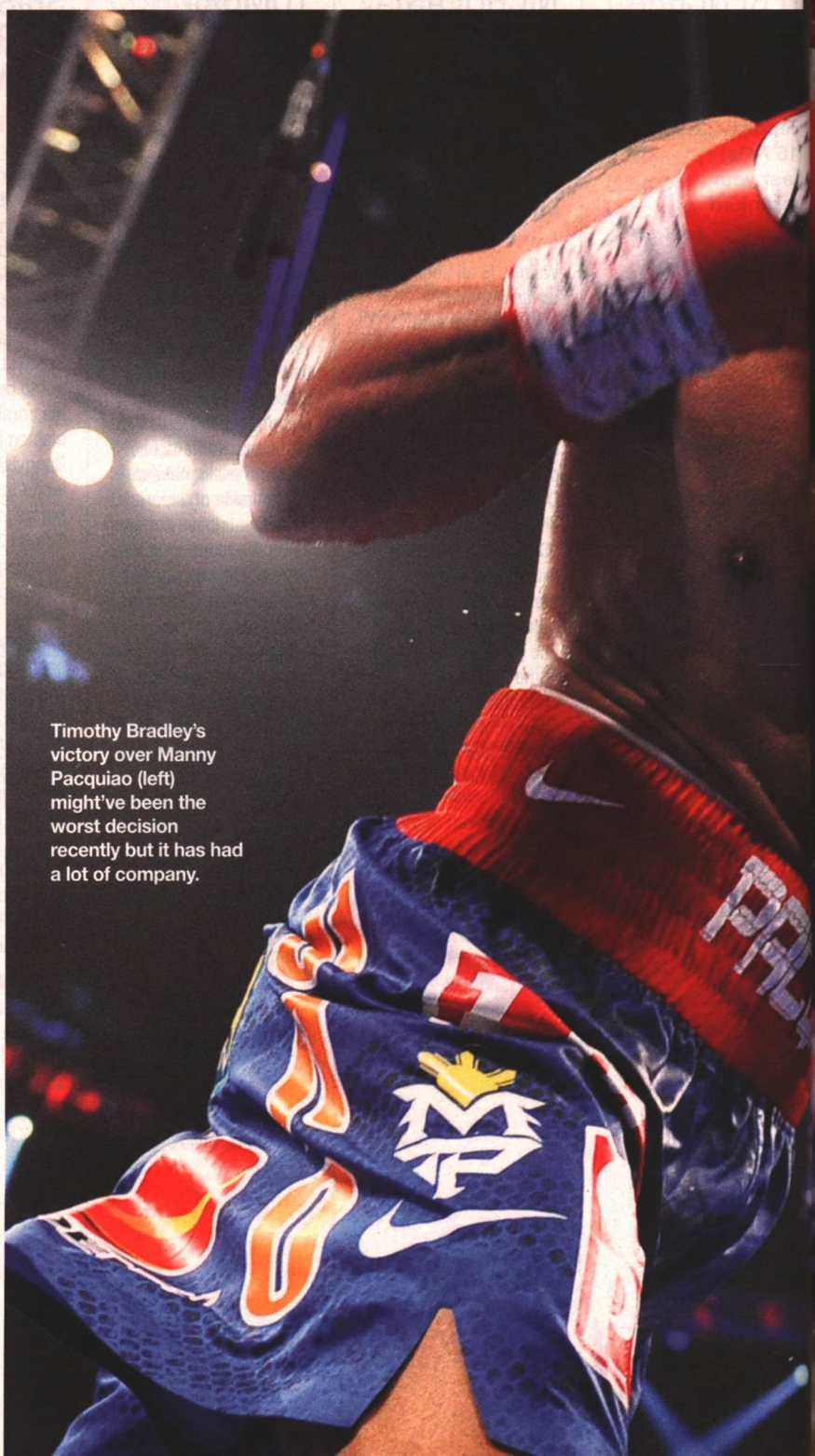
The Reasons:
Abraham has spent a long time near the top of the middleweight and super middleweight divisions without ever making it to the top spot. That time appears to be reaching its end. Abraham was knocked out early in a rematch with Robert Stieglitz this year, and he didn't look good in his subsequent win over Willbeforce Shihepo. Abraham held a world title at 160 in the eras of RING champions Jermain Taylor and Kelly Pavlik, a reign that lasted from 2005 to 2009 and included 10 successful defenses. He then moved to 168 for the "Super Six" tournament, knocked out Taylor, was disqualified against Andre Dirrell and was outboxed by Carl Froch and Andre Ward. He won a belt from Stieglitz in 2012 in their first bout.

The Future:
Abraham's second fight since the loss to Stieglitz was scheduled for Oct. 26 against Giovanni De Carolis.

CARDS STACKED AGAINST BOXING?

IT'S TIME THE POWERS THAT BE MAKE MORE OF AN EFFORT TO AVOID HORRIBLE SCORING

By **Ron Borges**



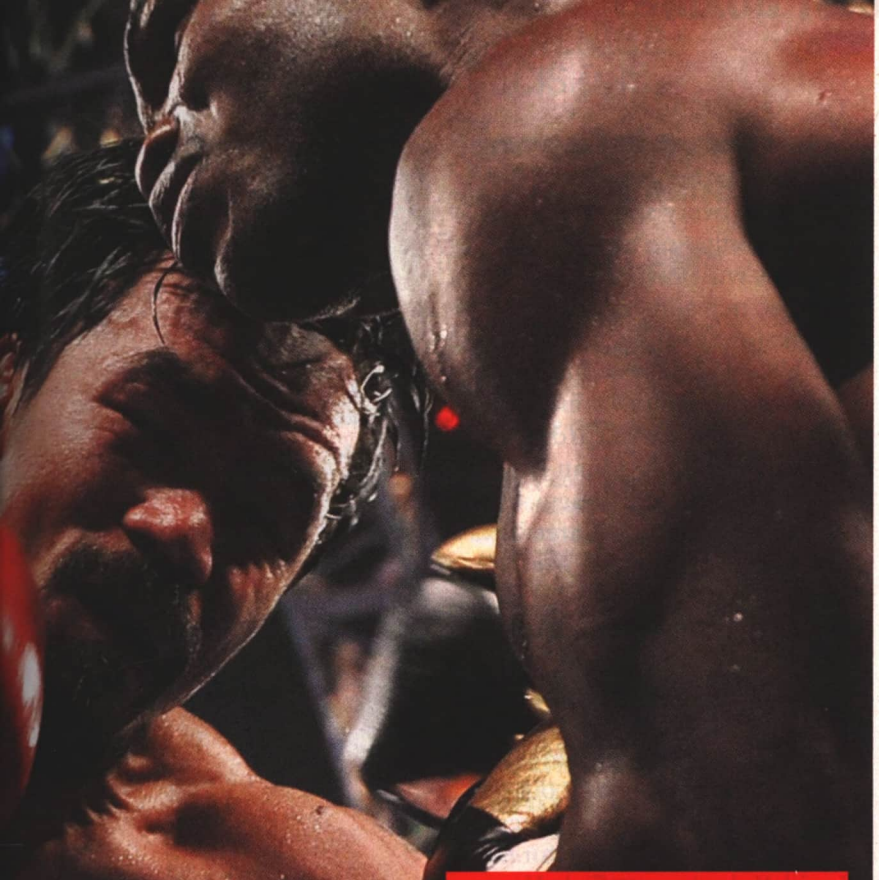
Timothy Bradley's victory over Manny Pacquiao (left) might've been the worst decision recently but it has had a lot of company.

Boxing doesn't often respond to criticism, probably because there is so much of it.

Prizefighting stands alone among professional sports as an utterly unregulated outlier, a business that regularly attacks itself because there is no one charged with the difficult task of protecting the sport from itself. The problems this creates manifest themselves in many ways but none more than the public's dwindling confidence in the validity of the outcomes.

Subjective judging of an athletic event is difficult on its face. One person's defensive brilliance is another's running. One person's view of what effective aggressiveness means is another person's conclusion the guy never landed a punch.

What is ring generalship? How much does defense count and how much does wading forward and "making the fight" mean if



SICKENING DECISIONS

We didn't have to go back too far – only 1½ years – to come up with seven decisions (or individual cards) that didn't reflect reality. Here is the list. (Try to keep your lunch down.)

TIMOTHY BRADLEY-MANNY PACQUIAO

Date / location: June 9, 2012 / Las Vegas
Winner: Bradley SD
Scores: 115-113 Bradley (Duane Ford), 115-113 Bradley (C.J. Ross), 115-113 Pacquiao (Jerry Roth)
The injustice: Many consider this one of the worst decisions ever when the magnitude of the fight is taken into consideration. Pacquiao wasn't brilliant but he clearly outworked Bradley, who barely touched the Filipino star. One journalist collected the scores of 55 colleagues afterward: 52 had Pacquiao winning.

when they do so they seldom land? How much does power factor into scoring blows? Those things alone make judging a boxing match difficult, a recent example of that being Timothy Bradley's split-decision win over Juan Manuel Marquez.

According to CompuBox statistics, the two landed nearly an identical number of punches (168 by Bradley, 153 by Marquez) at a nearly identical connect rate (34 percent Marquez, 30 percent Bradley). Marquez landed what CompuBox defines as power punches (everything other than a jab) more often (115-86) but was outjabbed by a wide margin (82-38 landed, 337-169 thrown). So who won? Depends on how you look at it.

Even so there are far too many scores in major fights that most well-informed observers conclude are so far off they bear no resemblance to reality. Over the last few months there was C.J. Ross' outrageous scoring of the Floyd Mayweather Jr.-Canelo Alvarez fight, a card so bad it allowed her counterparts' questionable scoring to go unnoticed when she concluded a landslide for Mayweather was actually a draw.

Soon after journeyman Bryan Vera had the night of his boxing life stolen from him by 80-year-old Gwen Adair, whose 98-92 card was so far from the reality of what happened in Vera's fight with Julio Cesar Chavez Jr. it might have been laughable had it not made you want to cry. Once again Adair's unsightly (literally) performance allowed the incompetence of her ringside colleagues, 79-year-old Marty Denkin (97-93) and Carla Caiz (96-94), to go unnoticed, but they got it wrong too.

A year ago, Bradley was

awarded a split-decision victory over Manny Pacquiao on a night when the only people who felt that way were either named Bradley or ringside judges Duane Ford and C.J. Ross (there's that name again). And just to make plain this is not simply an American problem (although it damn sure is in Texas any time the vision-challenged Gale Van Hoy is in a judge's chair) a recent WBO light welterweight title fight between Ricky Burns and Raymundo Beltran at the Scottish Exhibition Centre in Glasgow, Scotland, was called a draw on a night when Burns' jaw was broken, he was dropped in the eighth round and pummeled by Beltran, who threw many more punches and kept Burns on the defensive all night.

This led Beltran's disgusted manager, Steve Feder, to remark sadly, "This is one of those nights where we have to leave it up to the writers and the fans to try the case. You can't bring in new fans if they feel that there is some corruption going on. I'm not talking about money or moving things around. Corruption. Look it up. We're corrupting a beautiful sport. When it's done right it is beautiful, but tonight tarnished it."

That is the real danger to boxing of repeatedly suspect judging. The more these types of decisions occur, the more the word corruption rather than incompetence is used and the further the sport slips into disrepute.

Referees in the NFL are closely monitored each week by a supervisor of officials. They are graded each Monday and gain or lose top assignments based on those grades. They get sat down for particularly egregious errors in rulings or judgment. The same is true in other organized sports because, well, they're organized.

Boxing is a mishmash of fiefdoms. Every state has its own commission and its own officials with various levels of competency and experience. If Texas, for example, were run like the NFL, Van Hoy would have been suspended for some time after his disgraceful card in 2009 that had local hero Juan Diaz beating Paulie Malignaggi 118-110 in a fight all but three Texas judges felt Malignaggi won.

"Boxing is full of s---," Malignaggi memorably said. "I used to love the sport. Boxing is full of s---. The only reason I do it is for a good payday.

"You don't see too many good decisions in Texas, with out-of-towners against Texas fighters. I put my two cents in before. I said, 'I don't want Gale Van Hoy and I don't want Raul Caiz.' Raul had it pretty close. I thought I won the fight, but at least he had it close. But there is no way anyone won that fight 118-110.

"Gale Van Hoy just filled out his scorecard, on purpose, to (expletive) Paulie Malignaggi. I don't know how Gale Van Hoy keeps getting jobs."

That night Malignaggi landed 191 punches to Diaz's 178, according to CompuBox, and outthrew him 949-663. There were no knockdowns or other mitigating factors but Diaz's ZIP code. Van Hoy's card remains among the most outrageous in recent years.

Anyone can have a bad night of course, but Van Hoy has had many. Another came when he saw Texas-based fighter James Kirkland ahead of Carlos Molina 86-85 while his counterparts Dave Moretti (88-83 Molina) and David Sutherland (87-84 Molina) apparently were watching another fight. That led Molina's promoter, Leon Margules, to issue a press release that read in part: "Gale Van Hoy's scorecard is a pretty clear indication that he's not physically capable of judging fights anymore." Yet Van Hoy continues to work.

Initially Nevada State Athletic Commission executive director Keith Kizer gave knee-jerk support to Ross, but her card in Mayweather-Alvarez could

Most people thought Ricky Burns (left) was given a hometown decision over Raymundo Beltran.

not be erased. After days of media insults and ESPN's Teddy Atlas saying Ross was criminal, corrupt or incompetent before sputtering angrily "I don't know what she is," it became clear. She was an ex-judge after taking an indefinite leave of absence.

That night even Golden Boy Promotions CEO Richard Schaefer, whose company promotes Alvarez, said, "The whole world was watching. That scorecard was a disgrace. How that judge could be appointed after the decision of Bradley and Pacquiao is not a question I can answer. How can that happen? Is it going to happen again?"

Apparently not. Kizer initially defended Ross saying, "Just because a judge's scorecard ends up even doesn't mean the judge necessarily thought the fight as a whole was even. It could be that a judge has six rounds for each fighter, but the six rounds she gave fighter A, she gave them to him easily, and the six rounds she gave fighter B, they were really close rounds. That's pretty much how it was last night.

"Because one judge had it even on the scorecard doesn't mean that judge thought both fighters did equally well. I understand why there's criticism, because people think of the entire fight and think Mayweather was certainly the better fighter, so how can you have a draw? The answer is the scoring system."

If it is, which I doubt, change the system. But how?

First discipline officials who score a set number of cards well off the boxing world's accepted belief. Although Kizer said discipline was not warranted, Ross was wise enough to know otherwise. That is a rarity in boxing but a sign somebody was listening. In this case, it was NSAC chairman Bill Brady, who in response to the debacle ordered before Marquez-Bradley that a new selection process for officials be created.

In the past, the executive director generally appointed the officials and his selections were rubber stamped by the commission. But for that fight and going forward fighters' representatives and promoters will be empowered in Nevada to formally object, and changes

SICKENING DECISIONS

ARASH USMANEE-RANCES BARTHELEMY

Date / location: Jan. 4, 2013 / Miami
Winner: Barthelemy UD
Scores: 115-113 (Ric Bays), 116-112 (Richard Green) and 116-112 (Valerie Dorsett)
The injustice: Barthelemy, the better boxer, started quickly but Usmanee had imposed his will by the middle rounds and dominated thereafter in the first *Friday Night Fights* card of the year. Those present were stunned at the decision. That included TV analyst Teddy Atlas, who ripped into the judges.

JUAN CARLOS BURGOS-ROMAN MARTINEZ

Date / location: Jan. 19, 2013 / New York
Winner: Draw
Scores: 117-111 Burgos (Waleska Roldan), 114-114 (John Signorile), 116-112 Martinez (Tony Paolillo)
The injustice: Burgos, attempting to take Martinez's WBO 130-pound title, outboxed and outlanded the beltholder for most of the fight. Ringsiders and those watching on TV gave Burgos between nine and seven rounds. No one, it seemed, had Martinez winning. The judges, particularly Paolillo, saw it differently.

RICKY BURNS-RAYMUNDO BELTRAN

Date / location: Sept. 7, 2013 / Glasgow, Scotland
Winner: Draw
Scores: 115-112 Burns (Carlos Ortiz Jr.), 114-114 (Richard Davies), 115-113 Beltran (Andre Van Grootenbruel)
The injustice: You know it's a bad decision when even the hometown fans are stunned by it. Indeed, the vast majority of Scots on hand – and many others watching around the world – believed Beltran did more than enough, including a knockdown, to take Burns' WBO lightweight title. Alas, the judges stole it from him.

to formally object, and changes will be made. For Marquez-Bradley, two judges and a referee were rejected.

"They've always had the opportunity to raise objections, but now our chairman (Brady) has decided to make it more structured," Kizer said.

In the wake of the Ross controversy, Brady spoke with Nevada Gov. Brian Sandoval after the governor made clear he was concerned about the negative publicity in a state based on gaming. While that is the first suggestion for improvement, it should not be the last.

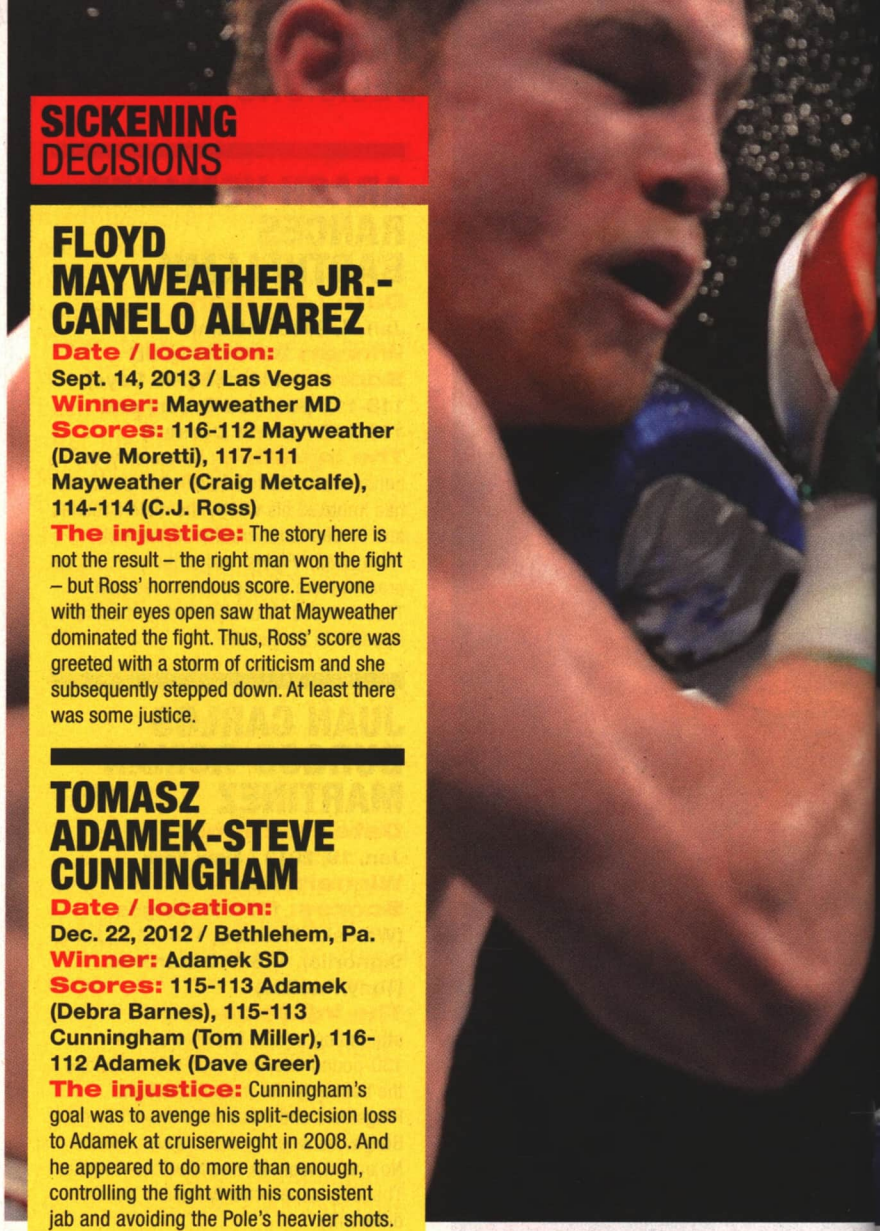
Atlas has long campaigned for a national boxing commission to control the sport nationwide. The UFC has avoided these type of problems because it has a central authority with the power to act. Boxing needs something similar.

"Part of the problem with our industry is that the officials are not held accountable for their actions," said Vera's promoter, Artie Pelullo. "There is no suspension in place. No fines. No review. All the commissions stand by their officials right or wrong, which is wrong.

"I'm a licensed fight promoter. Should I make a mistake, should there be a problem, there are repercussions for me, but there's nobody who holds the officials accountable. Very few times does anybody say 'Hey, you were wrong. You're suspended. You're fined.' That's the basic problem of the officiating because they're not held accountable to anybody."

One action taken by fight fan Anthony Gagliardo after the Kirkland-Molina fight was a petition posted on the political website Change.org, suggesting that officials involved in highly questionable calls be punished as officials in other sports are. Atlas agrees, believing the lack of consequences for their actions leads to little self-reflection and possible corruption.

"Bad judging is a disgrace and embarassment [sic] to the sport, the commissions and people involved, and the state," Gagliardo's petition read. "It can completely change a fighter's career and life, as well as turn fans away from the sport which will end up creating a loss of revenue. No boxer should have their hard work thrown out and their life altered due to a poor judging decision. The boxers must do their job correctly and the boxing judges should do theirs.



SICKENING DECISIONS

FLOYD MAYWEATHER JR.-CANELO ALVAREZ

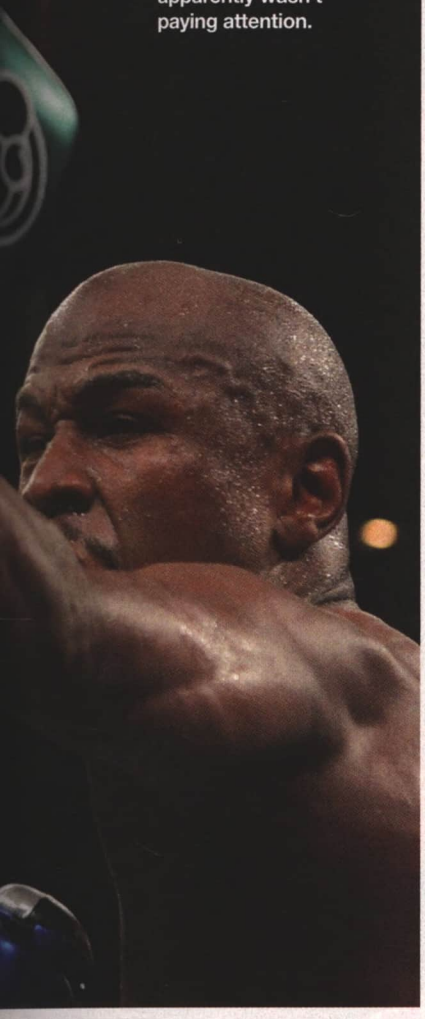
Date / location: Sept. 14, 2013 / Las Vegas
Winner: Mayweather MD
Scores: 116-112 Mayweather (Dave Moretti), 117-111 Mayweather (Craig Metcalfe), 114-114 (C.J. Ross)
The injustice: The story here is not the result – the right man won the fight – but Ross' horrendous score. Everyone with their eyes open saw that Mayweather dominated the fight. Thus, Ross' score was greeted with a storm of criticism and she subsequently stepped down. At least there was some justice.

TOMASZ ADAMEK-STEVE CUNNINGHAM

Date / location: Dec. 22, 2012 / Bethlehem, Pa.
Winner: Adamek SD
Scores: 115-113 Adamek (Debra Barnes), 115-113 Cunningham (Tom Miller), 116-112 Adamek (Dave Greer)
The injustice: Cunningham's goal was to avenge his split-decision loss to Adamek at cruiserweight in 2008. And he appeared to do more than enough, controlling the fight with his consistent jab and avoiding the Pole's heavier shots. Adamek did come on in the later rounds but it seemed too little too late. It wasn't.

JULIO CESAR CHAVEZ JR.-BRYAN VERA

Date / location: Sept. 28, 2013 / Carson, Calif.
Winner: Chavez UD
Scores: 98-92 (Gwen Adair), 96-94 (Carla Caiz), 97-93 (Marty Denkin)
The injustice: Most of those who watched scored it for the scrappy Vera but the fight was fairly close. However, a closer look at the cards is disturbing. Adair had Chavez winning eight of 10 rounds, Denkin seven of 10. Didn't happen. And Caiz gave Chavez the final six rounds. Also didn't happen. Vera deserved better.



Floyd Mayweather Jr. beat Canelo Alvarez easily but one judge apparently wasn't paying attention.

"Throughout the history of boxing, the sport has been plagued by terribly poor decisions that can be looked at as no other than a robbery. Ignorance, bias, and corruption have all played a part in these bad decisions. ... Robberies and bad decisions have unfortunately become a large part of boxing but that should not be an excuse and can certainly be changed with some effort."

After the decision in Vera-Chavez was loudly booed despite the fact the California crowd was filled mostly with Chavez supporters, Vera's trainer, Ronnie Shields, had an idea.

"Every one of these judges needs to retire," Shields told *USA Today* and anyone else who would listen. "It wasn't an easy fight for Bryan, but come on! Bryan won at least seven or eight rounds."

That's one possibility. Two more are "open" and "consensus" scoring. The problem is that the former, which is used in Mexico and some other places, could lead fighters with sizeable leads to run in the final rounds. And the latter, in which each round is decided by the equivalent of a majority vote, doesn't account for incompetence or worse.

Here are a few other suggestions.

First, have judges rotate seats either every round or every few rounds. It is often argued where you sit can give a false viewpoint on a fight. To avoid that, why not rotate the judges every round? That would give them different angles to view the boxers as the fight progresses and avoid the perception that being stationary can skew your point of view.

A more novel solution to the viewpoint issue was proposed by Hall of Fame referee Joe Cortez in the November 2012 issue of THE RING: Put the judges in elevated seats where they can see better, like tennis umpires.

Second, require judges to turn in with their final card the name of the fighter they believe won. If it too often doesn't coincide with their score, questions can be asked.

Third, more clearly define ring generalship, effective aggression, clean punching and the value of defense. They are, at best, nebulous criteria at the moment that mean different things to different judges.

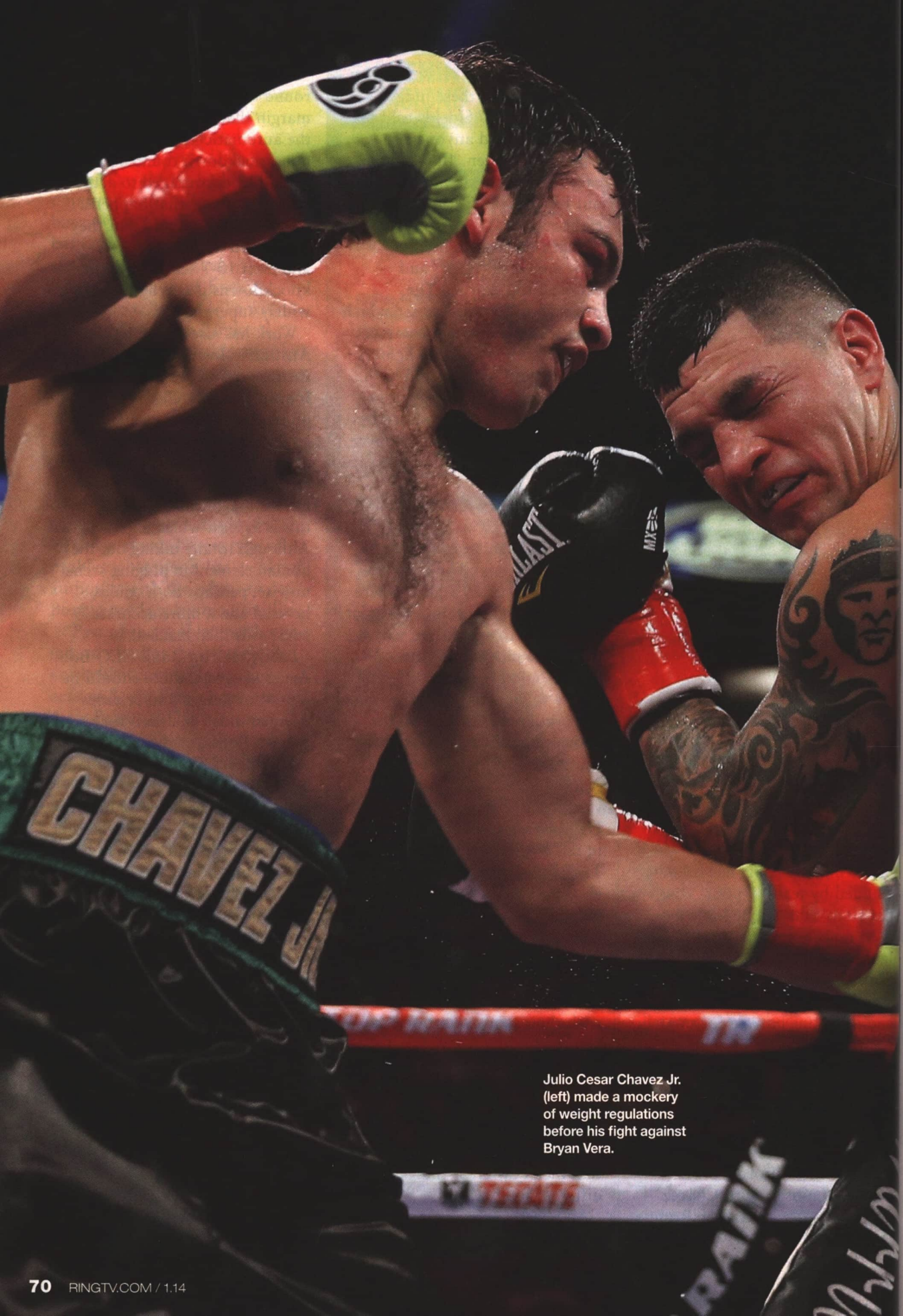
And, lastly, why is a knockdown required for a round to be won by a wider margin than 10-9? Instead of the automatic 10-9 score in non-knockdown rounds, judges should be encouraged to actually score based on what happens. Judges should be told that they can award many more 10-8 and even 10-7 scores without knockdowns if one fighter is widely superior.

Work has also begun by the Australian Institute of Sport and the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization on developing an automated scoring system to end corruption in amateur boxing. Although past efforts to "computerize" scoring have not avoided controversy, this is at least worth exploring. Although totally taking out the human element in judging seems unwise, perhaps both could be used and a more accurate consensus then reached.

Lastly, as Top Rank CEO Bob Arum suggests, there should be a pool of judges and referees deemed most qualified for the biggest fights, as there is in other sports. Experience and a proven track record of being right, fair and unmoved by who has the more powerful promoter or spot in the marketplace should be paramount.

As Stephen Espinoza, Showtime's executive vice president and general manager for sports and event programming, put it after Mayweather-Alvarez: "Other major sports such as the NFL, such as in college basketball use their best officials for their biggest events. That's something boxing should incorporate, and I don't see that being taken into account. You'd hate for Ross' score be the deciding factor."

Until something changes radically, too many times it will be.



Julio Cesar Chavez Jr. (left) made a mockery of weight regulations before his fight against Bryan Vera.

BEYOND THE LIMIT

JULIO CESAR CHAVEZ JR.'S INABILITY TO MAKE WEIGHT IS ONLY THE LATEST EXAMPLE OF A PROBLEM THAT PLAGUES THE SPORT

By **TIM SMITH**

Promoter Bob Arum tried to make light of a heavy situation before Julio Cesar Chavez Jr. recently met Bryan Vera in a middleweight ... uh ... super middleweight ... er ... light heavyweight? ... fight.

As Chavez continued to blow through a series of contracted weights for the fight, Arum put on his promoter's cap and played along with the guessing game right up to the final weigh-in. Arum advised fans to "Wait for the Weight." After finally setting the number at 173, Chavez weighed 172.4 pounds for the fight.

Chavez, who had agreed to a limit of 168 pounds after the original 162-pound matchup was rescheduled, was required to pay Vera a portion of his purse for continuing to shift the weight upward. But Vera also paid for the ruse. By the time Chavez stepped into the ring, he was the size of a cruiserweight.

Vera lost by a controversial decision, which overshadowed the real disgrace of the fight: the fact that Chavez made a mockery of a contracted weight limit.

Chavez isn't the first boxer who failed to make a contracted weight for a boxing match, and he's not going to be the last. But his actions highlight a problem that continues to plague the sport. There are many facets to the problem, not the least of which is the health and safety of the boxers. An over-the-weight-limit boxer can jeopardize an entire promotion. Cable TV networks aren't fond of canceling live boxing programs. Promoters aren't in the business of losing money. And undercard boxers don't relish the idea of training hard and not getting a payday.

"In a baseball game you don't say, 'My guys have been playing a lot of games; we're only going to play seven innings. We're not going to play nine innings,'" veteran promoter Gary Shaw said. "That's what boxers are saying when they don't make weight and force everyone else to deal with the consequences."

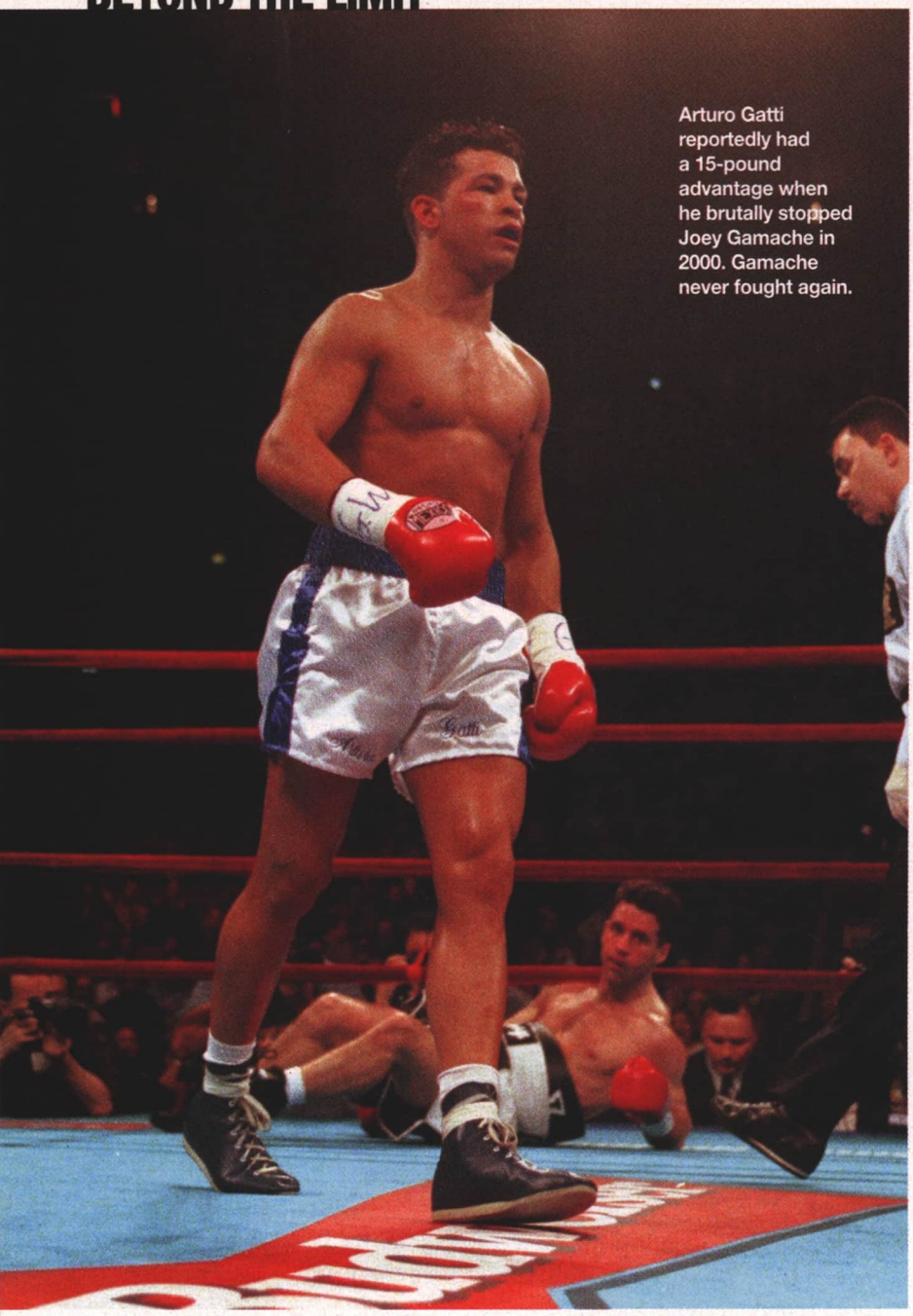
Shaw has seen his share of boxers not making weight. He was involved in two promotions in which Jose Luis Castillo failed to make weight for matches against Diego Corrales, whom Shaw promoted. Shaw allowed Corrales to fight an overweight Castillo in their highly anticipated rematch. Corrales was battered and knocked out in the fourth round. A third match was scheduled. Castillo failed to make weight again, and Corrales refused to go forward with the match.

The penalties levied against a boxer for not making weight are primarily financial. The boxer generally loses a percentage of his purse based on how many pounds over the weight limit he comes in. That money is added to the purse of his opponent if his opponent decides to go ahead with the match.

Floyd Mayweather Jr. came in two pounds over the 144-pound contract weight for his fight against Juan Manuel Marquez. Rather than lose the weight, Mayweather paid Marquez $600,000.

In some cases a boxing commission might fine a boxer for missing the weight, but normally they will have the contract rewritten to reflect a higher weight limit for the match. Rarely are matches canceled because a boxer comes in overweight, though sanctioning organizations will strip a boxer of his title.

Keith Kizer, the executive director of the Nevada State Athletic Commission, said typically boxers don't come in grossly overweight.



Arturo Gatti reportedly had a 15-pound advantage when he brutally stopped Joey Gamache in 2000. Gamache never fought again.

"It's very rare for a guy to miss weight, but when he does, it's usually a half pound or a pound over," Kizer said. "In those situations, you never know what's in a guy's mind as to why he didn't make the weight. My personal opinion is that they didn't care about the fine. They tried to make the weight, but they couldn't do it."

Kizer said the commission would cancel a fight if a boxer came in so overweight that it would be a danger to his opponent. He said anything over three pounds is a red flag at lower weight classes, and they would take a close look at canceling the match.

Joey Gamache, a former junior welterweight champion, was involved in one of the most egregious over-the-weight-limit matches ever. Gamache was supposed to fight Arturo Gatti at a weight limit of 141 at Madison Square Garden in 2000. At the weigh-in Gatti jumped on and off the scale before it could be clearly determined whether he actually met the weight requirement. The New York State Athletic Commission failed to make Gatti get back on the scale, certifying that he weighed 141.

In an unofficial pre-fight weigh-in done on HBO's scales, Gatti weighed 160 pounds and Gamache weighed 145 pounds. Gatti drilled Gamache, knocking him out in the second round. Gamache suffered a career-ending head injury and spent several days in the hospital. He successfully sued New York, claiming the commission had failed to properly conduct the weigh-in.

Gamache, who is a trainer now, did not want to comment on the weight issue for this article.

Sean Monaghan, a light heavyweight contender from Long Island, N.Y., said fighting a boxer over the contracted weight makes "a huge difference." He was contracted to fight Roger Cantrell at 176 pounds. Before the weigh-in, Monaghan got a call from his matchmaker saying Cantrell couldn't make 176 and asked to move the contract weight to 178. Monaghan agreed. He won an eight-round unanimous decision, but it wasn't easy.

"When we got to the weigh-in, he was 186, which was 10 pounds over what we started at," Monaghan said. "Supposedly, they sent a guy with a scale to his room the next day and he was almost 210. I was looking at it as a good thing, because he looked sloppy. I remember before the fight when he was 30 feet away from me (I was) thinking, 'Damn, that guy looks big.'

"Then I remember in the first round, the guy hit me with a jab and my nose got crunched.

I just said, 'Damn, this guy can punch.' I remember going in there, and my shots didn't affect him like they usually would. I was hitting him with good, hard shots, and he was just absorbing them. I remember thinking, 'This is something different here. It's like I'm fighting a heavyweight tonight.'"

Rolando Arellano, a long-time boxing manager, said it is a delicate balancing act when advising a boxer to go through with a match against a boxer who comes in over the contracted weight.

"What you do is you meet and confer with your team. You tell them the facts and the situation. This is what happens if the fight goes on, and this is what happens if we don't go through with it," Arellano said.

He had to have that conversation with his client, Vincente Escobedo, when Adrien Broner came in overweight for their junior lightweight match in 2012. The event was in serious jeopardy because Broner was 3½ pounds over the 130-pound limit at the weigh-in.

"Is the fighter doing it because he doesn't give a s---, and he's not professional, and he's got all these forces backing him? Or is it a legitimate case of the kid that is just growing and can't get down to that weight no more," Arellano said. "It's a delicate balance. Most of those kids who are 25 years old and they've been at that weight for three or four years, then they're just unprofessional."

All the forces came to bear on Arellano and Escobedo – HBO, Broner's management and the Cincinnati arena, which had sold the tickets. They agreed to go through with the fight after Broner forfeited $30,000 (10 percent of his $300,000 purse) and it was given to Escobedo.

Escobedo lost to Broner by a fifth-round TKO. He has lost his two subsequent fights by knockout.

"I think from a physical standpoint, he was OK. It could have had a psychological effect. Broner was not affected by his punches," Arellano said.

Shaw said larger financial penalties are the only language that boxers understand when it comes to making weight.

"Pulling the fight off TV and everybody suffering is probably the solution that will straighten everything out," Shaw said. "That will change the contracts that promoters make with fighters. ... Promoters have money at risk until that bell rings. Therefore the promoter will start making a different type of contract with the fighter that calls for real penalties if the fight doesn't come off. The only thing that most people understand is money."

Financial penalties notwithstanding, Arum thinks the solution to the problem comes with boxers being more vigilant with regard to their nutrition and more realistic about their best boxing weight.

"What happens is these fighters are used to making (a certain) weight," Arum said. "As they grow or get older making weight is different from the way it has been. Jose Luis Castillo had no trouble making 135 until he had trouble making 135 and couldn't get his body to do it. He could have avoided that if he had a conditioning coach and nutritionist measuring him every day."

It's a weighty issue, to be sure, and there are no quick, easy solutions. As long as there are divisions, there will be boxers who can't (or won't) make the weight. RING

HEAVIEST GUILT

These fighters are among the worst offenders when it comes to failing miserably to make weight.

JOSE LUIS CASTILLO

Several observers have called Castillo and Joan Guzman the "poster boys" for failing to make weight. Castillo came in 3½ pounds over the limit for his rematch with Diego Corrales, after which one of his cornermen was fined and suspended for tampering with the scale. Castillo stopped Corrales in four rounds, avenging a KO loss in their first fight. Castillo came in overweight again for the rubber match, this time by 4.5 pounds. Corrales refused to fight him.

JOAN GUZMAN

Guzman is known more for missing weight than his accomplishments. The blotter: 1. He was 3.5 pounds over for a lightweight bout against Nate Campbell in 2008. Too drained, Guzman pulled out. That cost Campbell $300,000. 2. He came in nine over for a fight against Ali Funeka for a vacant 135-pound title. They fought, Guzman won a split decision and the title remained vacant. 3. He was 3.5 over before he beat Jason Davis in 2010 and then tested positive for a diuretic. His promoter dumped him. 3. And this past June, he missed by 8.2 pounds for a 140-pound fight with Vicente Mosquera. Guzman wasn't allowed to fight.

FRANCISCO SIERRA

OK, you probably don't know who Sierra is. However, his transgression was so great that we would've been remiss to not include him here. Sierra had agreed to face Farah Ennis at 169 pounds in April. His official weight? A whopping 186.5 pounds, 17.5 over the limit. That made Sierra a cruiserweight. Of course, Ennis wouldn't go through with the fight. One question remains. Sierra had to know he was well beyond the weight limit. Why did he bother to weigh in?

SHAWN ESTRADA

The 2008 U.S. Olympian outdid Sierra. Estrada was scheduled to face Terrance Woods in February of last year at 172 pounds. He came in at 196, 24 over the limit. Woods also failed to make weight, coming in at 177. Still, the fight actually took place. According to officials in Texas, Estrada later the same day weighed 192. The 15-pound difference was apparently within the rules for a cruiserweight fight in Texas. Estrada won a unanimous eight-round decision.

PATH OF DESTRUCTION

DEONTAY WILDER, A ONETIME BASKETBALL HOPEFUL WHO IS INSPIRED BY HIS BRAVE DAUGHTER, IS ON AN EPIC RUN OF KNOCKOUTS

By **Norm Frauenheim**

Deontay Wilder is spreading the word with his fists, not his mouth, that he is a heavyweight to be feared.

Punching power, fascinating as it is frightening, identifies Deontay Wilder. It's even there, in the first four letters of his last name. Twenty-nine fights, 29 knockouts, including 17 in the first round. Wild.

Wild, too, perhaps is what we have yet to see. The relatively inexperienced heavyweight's raw power is a marketable commodity that has fashioned dramatic stoppages but doesn't answer questions about what might happen when that big punch lands on his chin in an inevitable test of what he can — or can't — withstand.

Questions are part of a game full of opponents with critical trainers and cynical promoters who always look for the flaw, the Achilles' heel, in any perceived advantage. The International Boxing Hall of Fame is full of fighters who are there because of collective doubts and the motivational

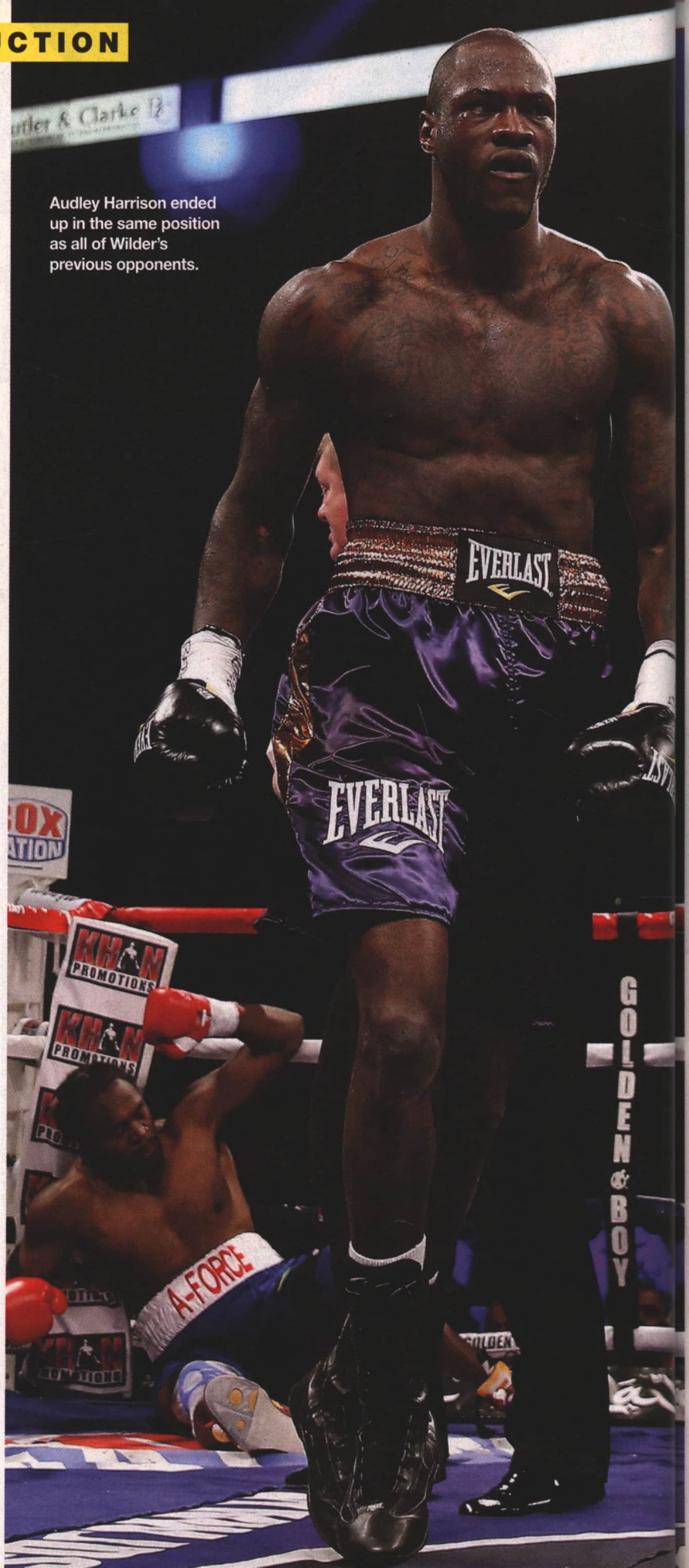
chip that they become. Wilder seems to understand that, almost instinctively.

"Doubt me, and I'm going to prove you wrong," said Wilder, whose uninterrupted string of stoppages before facing Nicolai Firtha on Oct. 26 on the Boardwalk in Atlantic City, N.J., ranked tied for No. 7 all-time on the list of longest KO streaks. "It never fails, because that's what's going to make me work the hardest."

Doubt is a little bit like that power. It's been with him for almost as long as Wilder can recall. If anything, the signature power in his right hand might have remained an unrealized resource if not for a daughter, Naieya, born with spina bifida, a developmental disorder in the spinal cord.

Wilder was a 19-year-old with plans to play junior college basketball in his hometown, Tuscaloosa, Ala. At Tuscaloosa Central High School, he dreamed about playing for the city's perennial college football giant, Alabama. He was a wide receiver, but poor grades and a high-school coach skeptical of his football potential forced him to enroll at Shelton Community College with dreams of playing power forward for the Crimson Tide. His dad had played basketball. Boxing was something he saw on HBO or Showtime or heard about through stories about Muhammad Ali. He never thought he'd ever answer an opening bell, much less make a career out of it.

But then physicians told him and his girlfriend that their baby might never walk because of a defect that can impair motor skills, hearing and sight. Physicians told the couple that a termination of the pregnancy was an option. No, said Wilder.



Audley Harrison ended up in the same position as all of Wilder's previous opponents.

His baby deserved a chance, he said. Wilder quit school and basketball. He worked day shifts at Red Lobster and night shifts at a Mercedes-Benz assembly plant. He drove a Budweiser truck. He did whatever he could to pay medical bills he knew were coming for a child born prematurely on March 5, 2005. The baby was so tiny that Wilder says he could hold her in the palm of a right hand so feared eight years later.

"She's made me work so much harder," Wilder said.

He watches tapes of Tommy Hearns, the legendary welterweight and middleweight who had Wilder's broad shoulders, long body and leverage behind his punches. Like so many heavyweights in his generation, Ali is his favorite champion. He has been compared to Hearns. Ali is a role model. But Naieya's name is tattooed across his chest and above his heart. She is his heroine, his favorite fighter.

After all, Naieya, now 8, has been winning the biggest fights. When she was born, physicians told Wilder she would need a respirator. But she defied that expectation and began breathing on her own. Then there were surgical procedures at the University of Alabama and, for a while, walking braces.

"Now, she's a gymnast," Wilder said during a telephone interview that included a hello from his daughter, who was at her father's side in Tuscaloosa.

"Hi," Naieya said.

"She's amazing," Wilder said. "Just amazing."

Amazing, too, has been her father's eye-catching emergence as the most dangerous prospect in the heavyweight division. At this point, calling him a contender might be stretch. His record has been built on unknowns, disappointments and burnouts.

Consider his two opponents before Firtha. Audley Harrison, a 2000 Olympic gold medalist for the U.K., never fulfilled the potential he displayed at the Sydney Games. Sergei Liakhovich held the WBO heavyweight title before Shannon Briggs abruptly ended his reign and credibility with a walk-off punch in the final second of a crazy fight in Phoenix.

Wilder, who knocked out the 41-year-old Harrison in 70 seconds and Liakhovich in 103 seconds, is hardly the first to have benefited from careful matchmaking. It's part of marketing. For Wilder, however, it's also part of a blueprint designed to get Wilder the work he missed during those days when he dreamed about running pass routes or grabbing rebounds for the Crimson Tide.

"He knows he's still learning," said lead trainer Mark Breland, a former welterweight champion and a 1984 Olympic gold medalist.

Wilder didn't undergo the long amateur apprenticeship that prepared some of the great heavyweights for their championship careers. He walked into co-trainer and co-manager Jay Deas' Tuscaloosa gym, Skyy Boxing, three days before his 20th birthday in 2005. Without basketball, he still had an interest in sports. He also saw boxing as a potential way to augment his income.

"It was just kind of my last shot at a sports career," Wilder said. "I thought maybe I could make a living as a journeyman, just as a journeyman. That's all I was thinking."

Wilder also knew he could fight a little. At 6-foot-7, he was known for a quick temper that often led to flying elbows and fists during pickup games on asphalt courts in and around Tuscaloosa.

"At first, I wasn't sure what to think," said Deas, who is part of a Wilder management team that includes Shelly Finkel and adviser Al Haymon. "But I'd watch him when he was alone in the gym. It was evident that he liked it a lot. With nobody else around, he'd work and work hard. That

KO STREAKS

The numbers vary a bit depending on the source, but everyone would agree that Deontay Wilder's streak of 29 consecutive knockouts going into his Oct. 26 fight against Nicolai Firtha ranks among the longest in boxing history. Here are the top 18 according to Boxrec.com.

41 LaMar Clark (1958-60)
41 Don Steele (1994-97)
36 Billy Fox (1943-46)
35 Dario Azuaga (1994-1996)
32 Wilfredo Gomez (1974-81)
31 Rodolfo Gonzalez (1959-1961)
30 Jimmy Adamick (1936-1937)
30 Bob Allotey (1958-63)
29 Alfonso Zamora (1973-77)
29 Acelino Freitas (1995-2001)
29 Deontay Wilder (2008-present)
28 Jesus Pimentel (1961-64)
28 Carlos Zarate (1974-78)
27 Henry Armstrong (1937-38)
27 Earnie Shavers (1970-72)
27 Miguel Julio (1990-95)
27 Vitali Klitschko (1996-99)
27 Edwin Valero (2002-10)

Notes: Don Steele and Dario Azuaga each had a no-contest in his streak; they were not considered interruptions here. If they were, the streaks would be 39 and 27 knockouts, respectively. George Gunther is credited by many sources with a streak of 41 KOs between 1899 and 1905, but records from the time are sketchy.

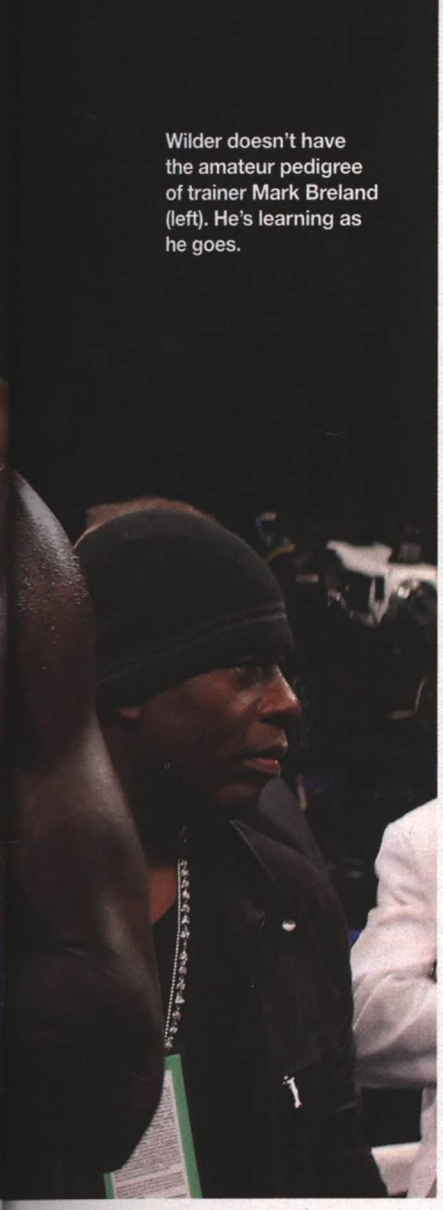
doesn't always happen. That was the first time that I began to think he might have something uncommon."

Three years later, uncommon became unexpected. Wilder, virtually unknown, reached the 2008 Beijing Games with the right hand that scored and forced stoppages in U.S. Trials and Olympic qualifiers. He arrived in China with only 20 amateur fights on his resume. He was in a field of seasoned amateurs with five, sometimes 10 times as many bouts. An early exit was the only reasonable prediction.

In an Olympics remembered for a dysfunctional U.S. team, Wilder emerged with America's only medal, a bronze he claimed after losing in the semifinals to eventual silver medalist Clemente Russo, an experienced Italian who also won silver at the 2012 London Olympics and lost to Andre Ward as a light heavyweight at the 2004 Athens Games. As it turns out, the improbable Wilder is the last American boxer to win an Olympic medal. The U.S. failed to win one in London.

Wilder's status as the only American boxer with a medal over the last two Olympiads might be more than just noteworthy. It might provide a hint at what's to come in a career that, for now, has generated some skepticism. In 2008, feuds tore apart the U.S. team. For the Americans, most of the fighting happened between coaches, the boxers and their fathers. At the opening bell, there was no energy or focus for the task at hand. Yet, Wilder was never distracted, perhaps because he didn't know what to expect or maybe because of that uncommon quality Deas detected when he first stepped into the gym.

But the skepticism, as predictable as an entourage, is rooted in at least a couple of factors. First, there's history. Most of the great heavyweights had already fought at the highest level by their 29th pro fight.



Wilder doesn't have the amateur pedigree of trainer Mark Breland (left). He's learning as he goes.

Ali had beaten Sonny Liston twice and was making a ninth defense of the RING title when he went 29-0 against Zora Folley. Joe Frazier had already beaten Ali in their famous 1971 fight when he went 29-0 against Ron Stander. Joe Louis, the best fighter born in Alabama, had already beaten Max Baer and lost to Max Schmeling when he went 28-1 against Eddie Simms. Evander Holyfield, the second-best fighter born in Alabama, had already beaten George Foreman and Buster Douglas when he went 28-1 in a loss to Riddick Bowe. Mike Tyson had already beaten Trevor Berbick when he went 29-0 in his first title defense against James "Bonecrusher" Smith.

So far, there's nobody on Wilder's record who compares to any of those names. At the same time, Wilder's resume doesn't include the lengthy amateur education that turns fundamental skill into habit and instinct. Ali, Frazier, Louis, Holyfield and Tyson began fighting in their early to mid-teens.

Deas and Breland have preached patience and sought some late schooling for Wilder, the potential late-bloomer, in sparring with Wladimir Klitschko, the best heavyweight of this era. Wilder worked with Klitschko at his training camp in Austria before a unanimous decision over Mariusz Wach in November 2012. He also has sparred with David Haye, Tomasz Adamek and Tony Thompson.

"The camps have been the best thing we've done," Deas said. "Anybody fighting a Klitschko needs to get some tall sparring. So, we'd go. That sparring has really helped a lot."

But it still hasn't answered that question about what happens when Wilder gets hit on the button by a heavyweight punch in a real fight instead of a sparring session. What about his chin? The discovery that Seth Mitchell's could not withstand that power, first in a loss to Johnathon Banks and then in a crushing defeat to Chris Arreola, leaves Wilder with the title as America's greatest heavyweight hope. But Mitchell's quick elimination in an ongoing game of musical chairs has left questions about whether Wilder will be the next to go. After all, Wilder doesn't have much more experience than did Mitchell, a former Michigan State linebacker.

"Yeah, I know a lot of people wonder whether I can take a punch," Wilder said. "But boxing's first rule is to hit and not be hit. I'm not going into the ring just to prove I have a chin. I'm not going to just let somebody hit me. If I can end it early, I will. I'm doing this to make some money for my family, my future. I'm doing this for my daughter."

Wilder also hopes to create enough wealth to pursue another interest: Acting. It's no coincidence, perhaps, that Breland has also worked as an actor, including a role in *The Lords of Discipline*, a film about life as cadet at The Citadel.

For Wilder, however, there's still much to learn. In the ring. And out of it. On the weekend of May 5, there was a red flag. He went to Las Vegas for Floyd Mayweather Jr.'s victory over Robert Guerrero at the MGM Grand. He was arrested on a battery charge and released on $15,000 bond. It's not clear exactly what happened. His attorney and Deas said the alleged altercation happened when Wilder thought a woman was stealing from him. Wilder, who has admitted he has a short temper, apologized. He told reporters in the U.S. and U.K. that he would learn from the incident.

"Definitely a reality check, a wakeup call," said Wilder, who was still allowed by British authorities to travel to the U.K. for sparring with Haye ahead of a Tyson Fury fight that was later postponed from Sept. 28 to Feb. 8 because of a cut suffered by Haye. "It's dying down now. I'm just looking forward to the future. It's going to make me a better person."

At his side, there's a daughter who reminds him of that future every day.

STEWARD WOULD BE PROUD

ADONIS STEVENSON FULFILLED HIS LATE TRAINER'S PROPHECY BY STOPPING CHAD DAWSON AND TAVORIS CLOUD. AND HE IS JUST GETTING STARTED

By **Keith Idec**

Adonis Stevenson's sudden surge toward boxing stardom would not have happened had his original trainer not suggested he take a fateful flight two years ago.

From the moment Montreal trainer Tiger Paul began working with the powerful southpaw when he was a raw teenager, Paul believed Stevenson could electrify fight fans against top opposition. The late-blooming boxer just needed an expert's assistance, the type of technical help Paul thought only Emanuel Steward could provide.

After Stevenson stopped Aaron Pryor Jr. in the ninth round of their December 2011 fight in Canada, Stevenson made the trip to Steward's famed Kronk Gym in Detroit. He clicked quickly with the Hall of Fame trainer and Steward's nephew, Javan "Sugar" Hill, who has been Stevenson's full-time trainer since Steward died in October of last year.

Adonis Stevenson seems to have realized his vast potential in his last two fights.

Stevenson made an enormous statement with one punch against Chad Dawson.

They immediately went to work on Stevenson's technique and footwork, confident all along that they were molding a future star even though Stevenson was already 34. Stevenson and Steward also spent many hours at Steward's suburban Detroit home studying footage of such legends as Muhammad Ali, Joe Louis, Ray Robinson and Mike Tyson. The heavy-handed Canadian considers those tutorials vital to his transformation from little-known super middleweight contender into boxing's lineal light heavyweight champion.

With impressive knockout victories over former light heavyweight champions Chad Dawson and Tavoris Cloud in back-to-back bouts, Stevenson has justified Steward's confidence in him. And that confidence is what still drives Stevenson (22-1, 19 KOs) to attain the greatness his mentor saw in him as soon as they began working together.

"It gives me a lot of motivation because Emanuel believed in me," said Stevenson, who moved from his native Haiti to the Montreal area when he was 5. "He saw the potential in me. I didn't see that. He saw that and Sugar saw that. They know boxing. Some people can talk about how they know boxing, but Emanuel was a walking bible of boxing. He knew talent. He told me before he passed away that I would be a superstar, that I would be a world champion. He gave me a lot of motivation.

"He told me that if I had the opportunity to fight Chad Dawson or Tavoris Cloud, jump on it because I could beat both guys. He said that to me, my promoter [Yvon Michel] and Sugar. He said, 'If Tavoris Cloud or Chad Dawson want to fight Adonis, jump on it. Don't wait. Jump on it. You're going to beat both guys, and you'll be a superstar in boxing.' After he passed away, I wanted to prove what he said. I wanted to prove to everybody Emanuel was not wrong, that this was a true story. I proved that."

Stevenson needed just one perfectly placed left hand and barely a minute to stop Dawson and produce perhaps the most stunning knockout of the year on June 8 in Montreal. Destroying Dawson to win THE RING's light heavyweight championship made Stevenson an instant star, a fighter HBO Sports executives eagerly put back on the network against Cloud on Sept. 28.

The 36-year-old Stevenson proved against Cloud, a former 175-pound titleholder who had lost only to Bernard Hopkins, that demolishing Dawson (31-3, 17 KOs) wasn't an aberration. He thoroughly outboxed Cloud (24-2, 19 KOs) before the fight was

stopped after seven rounds as a result of the Floridian's cuts.

"That was huge for (Stevenson) because he even admitted himself that Chad put down his hands, which gave him the opportunity to throw that punch," said Gary Shaw, whose company promotes Dawson and co-promoted the Stevenson-Cloud card with Michel. "In the Cloud fight, although he did try to put Cloud away with one big shot, when that didn't happen he switched and he boxed a lot more. That gave him confidence to know that he can go in and outbox someone who was a big puncher in his own right. He knows now that he doesn't have to deliver that one punch that he delivered against Chad. That's what starts changing someone into a complete fighter."

Stevenson's victory over Cloud also drew a crowd of nearly 10,000 to Bell Centre, about 4,000 more fans than the Dawson fight attracted. He has gained so much momentum as a ticket-seller in Quebec this year, Stevenson has joined Jean Pascal and Lucian Bute as bona fide stars north of the border.

"I think he can be a huge star," Shaw said. "He's already becoming a bigger star in Canada."

An appreciative Stevenson never thought he'd occupy such a prosperous position. He didn't start taking amateur boxing seriously until he was 24, after spending four years in prison on convictions for pimping and assault that stemmed from gang-related activities when he was 18.

Stevenson declined to discuss his legal ordeal with THE RING, but the father of two young girls and an infant boy acknowledged that immersing himself in boxing after his incarceration changed his life. The sacrifices the sport requires made him more disciplined and helped him in and out of the ring.

Once Stevenson gained the international experience he sought as an amateur, he turned pro at 29 in 2006. Seven years later, Stevenson soon could fight for seven figures in front of an adoring hometown crowd.

"It gives me a lot of motivation when my fans and my people come to watch me fight," said Stevenson, who went 33-5 as an amateur. "I had 10,000 fans to support me when I fought Cloud. When you grow up in a place, and you fight there, it's amazing. I love that."

At press time for this issue, Stevenson was scheduled to make a mandatory defense of the WBC light heavyweight title against England's Tony Bellew (20-1-1, 12 KOs) on Nov. 30 in Quebec City. The Stevenson-Bellew bout was paired with another light heavyweight title fight between Russia's Sergey Kovalev (22-0-1, 20 KOs), the WBO's 175-pound

Against Tavoris Cloud, Stevenson showed off his boxing skills.

EXCLUSIVE CLUB

When he knocked out Chad Dawson in June, Adonis Stevenson joined a select group of fighters with strong Canadian ties who have won a RING championship. Here's the list (in chronological order):

JIMMY McLARNIN

Hometown: Vancouver
Division: welterweight
Held title: 1933-34, 1934-35
Background: McLarnin was born in Ireland, moved to Canada as a toddler and became a U.S. citizen as an adult. "Baby Face" was named the first RING welterweight champ in 1933. He then lost the title, won it back and then lost it again to rival Barney Ross all by decisions in a one-year period. McLarnin is considered one of the best fighters of all time. He was inducted into the International Boxing Hall of Fame in 1991
Did you know? McLarnin beat fellow Hall of Famers Tony Canzoneri and Lou Ambers in consecutive fights in 1936 and never fought again.

LENNOX LEWIS

Hometown: Kitchener, Ontario (London in England)
Division: heavyweight
Held title: 2002-04 (retired)
Background: Lewis was born in England, moved to Canada when he was 12 and won a gold medal for his adopted country in 1988. Lewis was named RING champion in 2002, shortly after the magazine reinstituted its championships. He defeated Mike Tyson and Vitali Klitschko in defense of the belt and then retired. Lewis, who held one title or another for all but two years between 1992 and 2004, was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 2009.
Did you know? Lewis competed for Canada at 18 in the 1984 Olympics, losing in the second round to eventual gold medalist Tyrell Biggs.

JEAN PASCAL

Hometown: Laval, Quebec
Division: Light heavyweight
Held title: 2010-11
Background: Pascal has a lot in common with Stevenson. He also is from Haiti, from where he emigrated to Canada as a child, and beat Dawson to win the RING championship. Pascal defeated Dawson by an 11th-round technical decision after Dawson was cut to win the vacant RING title. He drew with Bernard Hopkins in his next fight but lost the rematch and the RING belt six months later. Pascal hasn't done much since. He is scheduled to fight Lucian Bute on Jan. 18 in Montreal.
Did you know? Pascal has fought outside the province of Quebec only twice, when he defeated Omar Pittman by a one-sided decision in 2008 in Hollywood, Fla., and was outpointed by Carl Froch in Nottingham, England, in his next fight the same year.

ADONIS STEVENSON

Hometown: Montreal
Division: Light heavyweight
Held title: 2013-
Background: Everyone knew Stevenson was good – particularly in terms of punching power – even if his resume was relatively thin. Still, the events of June 8 took most people by surprise. Stevenson put Dawson down and out with a single left to the side of head only 1:16 into their fight, giving the then-35-year-old upstart the RING championship. He proved that victory was no fluke and that he was a more complete fighter than many believed by outboxing Tavoris Cloud in his first defense.
Did you know? Stevenson avenged his only loss – a second-round knockout against Darnell Boone in 2010 – by stopping Boone in six in March.

champion, and Ukraine's Ismayl Sillakh (21-1, 17 KOs) as part of an HBO doubleheader designed to generate interest in a Stevenson-Kovalev showdown sometime in 2014.

Stevenson said he'd eventually welcome a light heavyweight unification fight against Kovalev. He cautioned, however, that Kovalev, who dismantled Wales' Nathan Cleverly to win the WBO title by fourth-round technical knockout on Aug. 17, needs to defeat former champions on the level of Dawson and Cloud before the matchup could be justified.

According to Shaw, Stevenson also is contractually obligated to a rematch with Dawson. Stevenson seems most interested in facing Hopkins, a legend who's well known to Canadian fight fans from his two fights against Pascal in 2010 and 2011.

"It's a big, big fight," Stevenson said. "Bernard Hopkins is a champion. Plus, he beat everybody, and he's a big name at light heavyweight. In Montreal, everybody knows Bernard Hopkins. It's history. It's pressure versus the technician. It's Bernard Hopkins, the old man, vs. the young man. Who's going to win the fight? This is a big, big fight."

Stevenson believes a Hopkins fight could draw a crowd in excess of 20,000 somewhere in Quebec. Nevertheless, Hopkins would be 49 if he fought Stevenson in 2014. The premium-cable battle between HBO and Showtime also could complicate matters because HBO Sports president Ken Hershman has publicly stated that for the foreseeable future the network won't work with Golden Boy Promotions, in which Hopkins is a partner.

Regardless, Stevenson has plenty of options he didn't possess prior to beating Dawson and Cloud. A year ago, the then-super middleweight contender couldn't land a 168-pound title fight against England's Carl Froch even after defeating Donovan George by 12th-round technical knockout in an IBF elimination match.

Stevenson has earned the right to jump for joy.

While waiting for a bigger fight, Stevenson avenged his lone loss by knocking out journeyman Darnell Boone in the sixth round. Boone survived two first-round knockdowns and upset a careless Stevenson by second-round technical knockout in their first fight nearly three years earlier in Salisbury, Md., but Stevenson has evolved into a different fighter since then.

"His boxing skills have gotten a lot better," Hill said. "Each time we are in camp, he is getting better and better. I'm watching him learn more and more. ... His boxing IQ is off the charts. He is a very, very good thinker and very exceptional at seeing weaknesses and openings and mistakes that the opponent makes, and he capitalizes on it."

Stevenson's development assures Hill his fighter will beat any light heavyweight opponent he encounters.

"Anybody that they feel that we should face would be a good opponent, whether it is [Kovalev] or if it's Bernard," Hill said. "I know one thing: Adonis does want to unify the light heavyweight championship. He wants every belt in that division. It doesn't matter which order they come in, as long as he gets them."

Meanwhile, Stevenson is truly enjoying the recent success that has made him a Canadian celebrity and enabled him to better to provide for his children.

"I'm really happy," Stevenson said. "I'm just staying humble and staying focused. But I showed people that I can box, that it wasn't just a one-punch knockout against Dawson. People think I'm the kind of guy who throws just one punch for knockouts and after four, five, six rounds I'm tired and I can't fight anymore. It's not like that. I can box. I'm from the Kronk Gym, man. And my trainer was Emanuel Steward."

For that, Stevenson is forever grateful. RING

Keith Idec covers boxing for *The Record,* of Woodland Park, N.J.

FLASH POINT

U.S. AMATEUR **ERICKSON LUBIN**'S DECISION TO SIGN WITH **MIKE TYSON** RATHER THAN PURSUE OLYMPIC GOLD COULD HAVE FAR-REACHING RAMIFICATIONS

By **Bernard Fernandez**

Amateur boxer Erickson Lubin might not know it, but he one day might be remembered as a pioneer.

Lubin, whom many had tabbed as a potential gold medalist at the 2016 Rio de Janeiro Olympics and as a bright hope for the revitalization of USA Boxing, signed a professional contract with Iron Mike Productions on Oct. 1, his 18th birthday and the first day he was eligible to do so.

Maybe Lubin understood the significance of his actions. Maybe he didn't. But there can be no denying that his decision to go pro now will have ramifications that are far-reaching both in the U.S. and very possibly beyond. Indeed, there appears to be no going back to the way things were.

Lubin, who fights at 140 pounds, was not only widely regarded as his country's best hope for glory in Rio, but also as potentially the same sort of pied piper that celebrated gold medalists Sugar Ray Leonard (1976) and Oscar De La Hoya (1992) were. That's why USA Boxing president Dr. Charles Butler publicly urged Tyson to refrain from going after Lubin and other prospective members of the 2016 U.S. Olympic boxing team. Dr. Butler's open letter to Tyson, released to various media outlets the same day that Tyson's company signed Lubin and a lesser Olympic prospect, bantamweight Dennis Galarza, appealed to the two-time heavyweight champion's sense of patriotism:

"These young athletes are forgoing their Olympic hopes and the hopes of our nation for a professional boxing contract. You are offering these athletes pennies on the dollar of what they would be worth with an Olympic medal, or even for being just an Olympian. You are destroying the next United States Olympic boxing team.

"Mike, USA Boxing does not have the money to match your offers (a reported $30,000 to Lubin). If you have money, you should donate it for athlete stipends to support the training of these boxers to help your country regain its prominence on the medal podium. You should not be taking them from us. If they win a medal for their country, you can bid for them at that time. ... Mike, you have been blessed and we appeal to you to do the right thing."

Tyson replied to Dr. Butler's open letter with one of his own, published in the *New York Post*, which challenged the notion that he was somehow unpatriotic and thereby exploiting Lubin and anyone else who wanted to grab some green now instead of gambling on gold three years down the road:

"Your organization never attempted to contact me directly to discuss this matter. Had you done so, perhaps you would have had a better understanding of my love for amateur boxing and my commitment to protect fighters by giving them the best possible opportunities this business can offer.

"Many of these boxers are like me in that they are from poverty-stricken communities and boxing is their only way to a better life. They have obligations beyond your personal vision for them. No one has the right to question the path a fighter chooses in pursuit of their American dream."

Now that Erickson Lubin has been cast in the role of such other antsy sports pioneers as basketball's Spencer Haywood (signed with the ABA as an underclassman before he was eligible to do so with the NBA), football's Herschel Walker

Is Erickson Lubin's decision to forsake the Olympics and turn pro the start of a trend?

(signed with the USFL when he was off-limits to the NFL) and baseball's Andy Messersmith (the first free agent to switch teams), the only question seemingly to be answered is this: How fast and how wide will the floodgates open?

It is the contention of Dr. Butler and other nervous officials with USA Boxing that their version of the sport is not like basketball, tennis and other Olympic disciplines that already have cast off the hypocritical veneer of simon-pure amateurism. But there is a marked difference between boxing, in which established, premier pros fight only one to three times a year for huge purses, and basketball, in which members of quadrennial NBA "Dream Teams" are in their off-seasons during the Olympics, and tennis, which holds tournaments around the globe nearly every week anyway. Can anyone really imagine Floyd Mayweather Jr. putting aside his lifestyle of the rich and famous for the better part of a year so that he can beat up some frightened and dreadfully overmatched teenager from, say, Belize in a preliminary round?

Olympic boxing has been under fire for quite a while, and there was and is talk that the International Olympic Committee has considered eliminating it from its roster. Such was the case with wrestling, which was scheduled to be excised from the 2020 Tokyo Games until an impassioned effort led by the legendary Dan Gable gained it a reprieve. But there doesn't appear to be a Gable-type leader in boxing who can forge that kind of consensus, not with boxing a wind-whipped willow that bends to the whims of many masters.

USA Boxing more or less begged new promoter Mike Tyson not to sign the U.S.' top amateurs.

The IOC dictates to the USOC, which in turn dictates to USA Boxing, which also is answerable to AIBA, the much-maligned international governing body for Olympic-style boxing. That's a lot of decision-making done at other levels before Dr. Butler gets a chance to add whatever input he can.

Teddy Atlas, who was NBC's voice of Olympic boxing in Sydney (2000), Athens (2004), Beijing (2008) and London (2012), has said that the changes that will be in effect in Rio – the removal of headgear and a return to manual instead of computer scoring – are too little and too late to save a sport drowning in a sea of corruption and incompetence.

"Olympic boxing has become a joke," Atlas said when asked to assess the long-term future of Olympic boxing. "It's not relevant anymore. The scoring is ludicrous. You see a guy from Japan drop a guy from Azerbaijan seven times and he still loses the fight. ... I mean, come on. You can't even watch it after a while. How do you defend a sport like that?

"The computer scoring was nothing more than robbery without leaving fingerprints. They pretended they were eliminating the human element, but they didn't. Like I said on the air, it's become fencing with gloves. If you turn boxing into fencing with gloves, the audience is going to dissipate even more. And the audience isn't very big to begin with these days."

To Atlas' way of thinking, the main villain in the continuing erosion of Olympic boxing is not Mike Tyson or other promoters who will now swoop in to sign the cream of the amateur and quasi-amateur crop, but AIBA, which believes it not only can

have it both ways, but somehow is entitled to do so.

AIBA, whose president is Dr. Ching-Kuo Wu of Chinese Tapei, launched AIBA Pro Boxing in the fall of 2012, which was heralded as something that would "revolutionize" the sport. Its stated intent was to open the Olympics to pros for the first time, as long as they were pros under the AIBA Pro Boxing banner. Boxers, including current pros with fewer than 15 fights, were eligible to sign up for the program, which would provide monthly salaries and prize money, so long as they were at least 19 years of age and committed themselves for a period of two years prior to an Olympiad and for at least two years afterward.

That AIBA would attempt to impose a form of monopoly in the procurement of talent was never going to fly, at least not without staunch resistance. The move by Tyson's fledgling company was almost to be expected. If Lubin's pro career takes off like a rocket, the folks at Iron Mike Productions are going to look very smart. And if it doesn't, well, the investment made will have been for a lot less than would have been the case had Lubin taken gold in Rio before putting his services on the open market.

But the image of American kids fighting almost solely for the privilege of representing their country may soon be as anachronistic as a Norman Rockwell painting from the 1940s. In the new world order of boxing, young wannabes heading to the gym will be doing so with visions of bling-bling dancing in their heads more than the quaint notion of upholding national pride.

"People want to at least think there's some purity to Olympic boxing, some detachment from the pros," Atlas said. "It's a chance for kids to represent their country. Afterwards, they can make a choice whether to go professional.

"People see some of these guys signing (with AIBA) before their medal matches, and they're getting their hands raised on controversial decisions. Everybody saw the fight and knows who won. But the AIBA guys who don't deserve to win keep getting their hands raised. Is it a coincidence? I don't think so."

Kathy Duva was a publicist for Main Events when she saw the firm evolve from a mom-and-pop company into a major player with the signing of such medalists at the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics as Evander Holyfield, Meldrick Taylor, Pernell Whitaker, Mark Breland and Tyrell Biggs. But Duva, who in 1996 succeeded her late husband, Dan Duva, as Main Events' president, said that it's always a crapshoot when you sign even the most heralded amateurs.

"We invested a ton of money in those guys before the Olympics, to bring them into pro camps so they could train with the pros and learn under good managers," Kathy Duva said. "It's part of the reason they were so freakin' good.

"Pernell Whitaker was in our camps years before we signed them. So was Mark Breland. We used to bring those fighters in almost as a public service, to move them along and teach them what they needed to learn to succeed in the Olympics and beyond. But the world was different then. We put a lot of money up, we didn't get all of it back. We had to be wildly successful to reap the benefits of those investments. We were with Whitaker, not so much with Biggs and Breland. Holyfield turned out to be the guy we made the most money with, and we invested nothing in him prior to his turning pro, although we did give him a signing bonus.

"There was one guy in whom we invested well into six figures. We even paid for his mother's funeral. Then when it came time for him to turn pro he said, 'Well, if you give me a million-dollar bonus, I'll sign with you. If not, I'll sign with these other guys who are offering me a million.' My husband said ... well, I'd rather not say what he said.

"Let's just say I don't think the old system was particularly good. We have not signed an Olympic kid directly out of the amateurs since 2000, and we'll never do it again. You can't sign up these kids forever. Signing amateurs, giving them a lot of money and hoping they win Olympic medals, it's like playing the lottery."

Iron Mike Productions has purchased its Power Ball ticket in the person of Erickson Lubin. USA Boxing is singing the blues over his departure, but maybe the gold-medal star that emerges in Rio after the embarrassing medal shutout in London is some late bloomer not yet on anyone's radar. No one knows for sure because in boxing, as in everything else, the only thing that is always certain is uncertainty.

Will there be Olympic boxing in 2024 and beyond? Who's to say? But when push comes to shove, here's hoping that someone with the galvanizing strength of Dan Gable comes along to keep that flickering flame from going out. RING

Olympic gold medalist and heavyweight prospect Anthony Joshua has many positive influences.

KEEPING GOOD COMPANY

ANTHONY JOSHUA IS SURROUNDED BY THE RIGHT PEOPLE AND SOAKING IT ALL IN

By **Gareth A Davies**

The heavyweights have been in the news on this side of The Pond. The manner in which Wladimir Klitschko defended his heavyweight crown against Alexander Povetkin in Moscow was shockingly poor. It drew stinging criticism from many quarters, heightened by the extraordinarily vast $23.3 million purse. Lennox Lewis and others weighed in on it. More on that later.

On the same night in London, a young man following in the footsteps of Klitschko and Povetkin who also had lifted Olympic gold took his first bow on a professional canvas. Anthony Joshua may be more than just physique, but it will be a long, hard road ahead.

Joshua is already espousing a brand of level-headedness that is reassuringly mature. He's in a good place. He spoke in East London of his trust in Tony Sims, the trainer who recently guided Darren Barker to a world title. "The trainer is the third eye in those tough rounds," Joshua told me just days before he dispatched Emanuele Leo to the canvas inside three minutes.

Sims told me: "We've seen so many fighters go off track. He's straightforward. When kids have been doing it 10 or 12 years, since the age of 10 or 11, they get cheesed off. But it's all brand new to him. He's in the right place at Matchroom Sports; he has a good team around him."

What Joshua has around him in the gym, in Hainault, are seasoned pros who are plying their trade in the gym down a side alley on an industrial estate surrounded by car salesrooms and factories. World titleholder Barker, a rejuvenated Kevin Mitchell and others, they all mingle and share stories. Joshua is like a sponge with all of them, soaking up any information he can.

The lightning rod for Sims right now is Barker, whose 19-year-old brother, Gary, was killed in a car crash in 2006. "It was a great moment for Darren winning the world title. He has had to work hard for everything he has. His brother Gary didn't. He was so gifted, so naturally gifted. It was a sad, sad tragedy. It really knocked Darren when Gary died. I didn't think he'd do it after that. He wasn't the same, he'd lost the desire, and his injuries dragged him down mentally. I was there on that last night that Gary died. (Gary) was talking about turning pro, and I was trying to persuade him to stay in the amateurs and go for the Olympics."

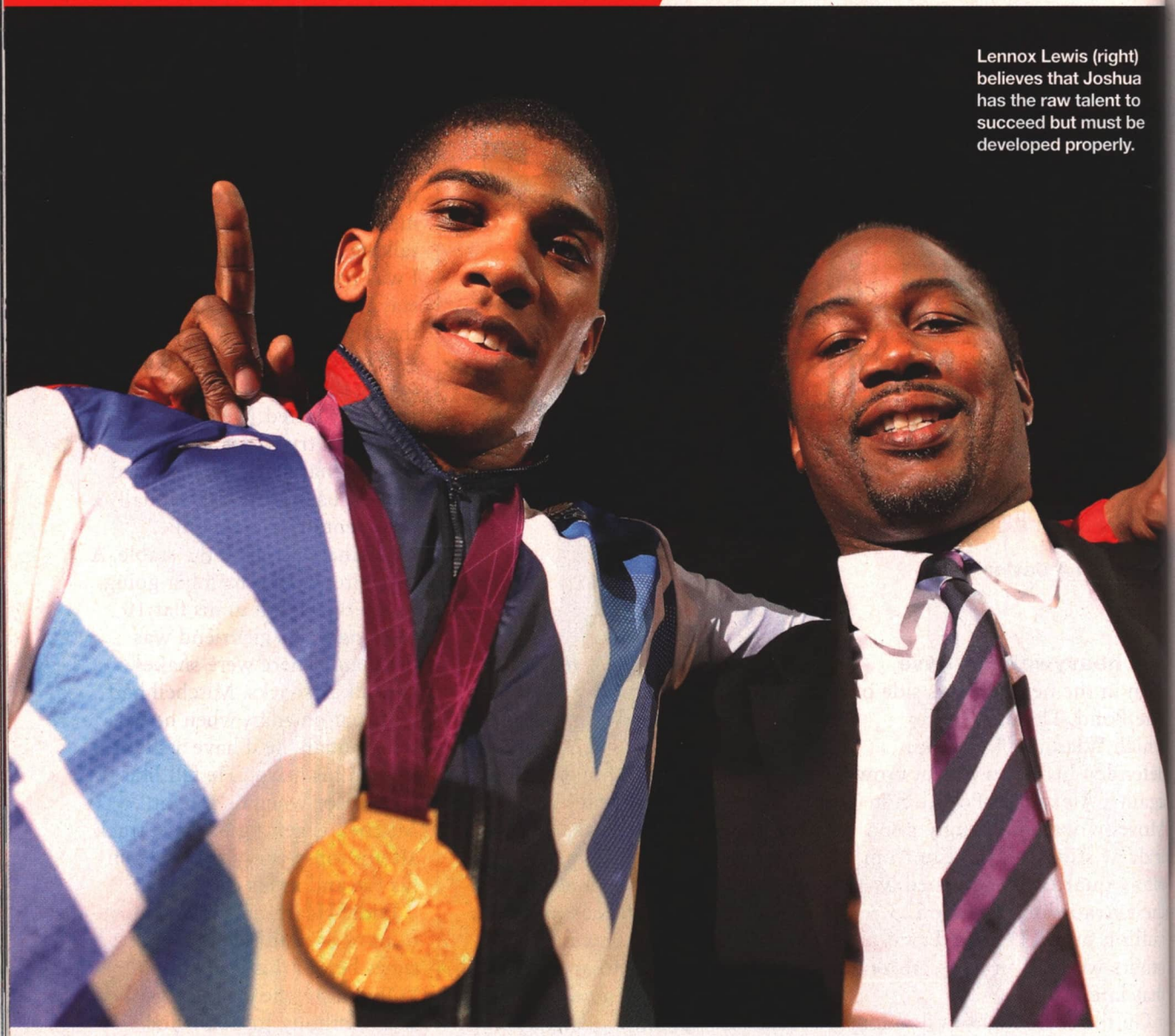
"Darren wouldn't mind me saying this, but Gary was more naturally gifted. We both agreed he should try to get an Olympic place. What Darren has hauled himself back from, emotionally and mentally, is incredible."

Mitchell also is in the stable. A live wire. I can remember going to interview him in his flat 10 years ago. His girlfriend was pregnant. There were snakes. We talked sharks. Mitchell had said that one day, when he was rich enough, he'd have a shark tank in his house. He felt like a predator when he fought. Mitchell is getting back on track after a topsy-turvy few years in his life and in his career.

Eddie Hearn aims for Joshua to have been in the ring three times before this year is up. "Obviously, the ultimate goal with Anthony Joshua is for him to become heavyweight champion of the world. We don't want to scream from the rooftops, but he has the physical and mental attributes, in my view, to go all the way.

"And if he does, he's the kind of individual who will be a huge, crossover superstar at the same time."

Joshua openly admits that the training is all about focusing his raw strength and power. "I get frustrated and want to use my brute force, but you've got to stay focused, disciplined. I still have so much to learn." Having been there, seen the place, and its sights and senses, he's in the right environment.



Lennox Lewis (right) believes that Joshua has the raw talent to succeed but must be developed properly.

U.K. TOP 10

1. **CARL FROCH**
2. **AMIR KHAN**
3. **DAVID HAYE**
4. **KELL BROOK**
5. **CARL FRAMPTON**
6. **RICKY BURNS**
7. **TYSON FURY**
8. **SCOTT QUIGG**
9. **DARREN BARKER**
10. **MARTIN MURRAY**

Five more (in alphabetical order): Jamie McDonnell, Paul Butler, Nathan Cleverly, George Groves and Matthew Macklin.

THROUGH FIGHTS OF OCT. 20

★

LENNOX LEWIS

Lewis has plenty to say about Joshua, incidentally. "He's a young man, and it was important for him to get that first fight under his belt," Lewis told me a few days after Joshua had fought. "That first fight was basically just popping his cherry. You can't really see anything from the first fight. You just need to get that fight out of the way.

"The important part is the development aspect, especially when you first start as a professional. You are the best amateur but not the best pro, so it's a retraining, a relearning. You learn what the judges are looking for ... that hard shot, looking as if you are taking over and in command of the ring, all these things that are points for you in the eyes of the judges and things that you have to remember.

"He has the raw talent, but it depends on his development, whether they move him along in the correct fashion. He's a pretty smart kid, and he knows what he wants, and he's with some people right now who can help him, so we are going to have to see what happens in the future."

Joshua has visited Lewis in

Jamaica during the last year. They sat together, and they talked. "I basically told him about my career, what was successful for me. He loved listening to the stories, and he's a sponge, and he took everything in, and at the end of the day, he's the one who has to make his decision."

Having seen Wlad Klitschko's last fight, Lennox feels he needs to go on a mission. "I'm going to clean up the heavyweight division in the sense of educating the fighters who need a lot of developing. They are missing out on it.

"What they are really going for is running for the money and taking a couple of fights from promoters because they need it. But they are not going through the right training sequence to help them be successful.

"Looking at the Klitschko-Povetkin fight last week, I realized there's something lacking in heavyweight boxing ... the skill. I'm going to go in there and really try and re-vitalize the grassroots. It starts from training.

"So I'm going to develop a website and put notice out there for young boxers who want to be successful, who want to be trained right, who want to be managed right and promoted right. We want them to put out a message, send a video of themselves so me and my training team can go through it and see if they are prospects or not, and eventually invite them to come training.

"You could tell with Klitschko vs. Povetkin, it was basically a man against a boy. It was a terrible fight for fans, and it was a terrible fight for a boxer like myself seeing that type of talent, and no skill being used. It makes a mockery of heavyweight boxing, and it needs to be improved.

"If somebody gave me 10 years back, I would definitely go back in there and get rid of the guys who are there right now and show them what I mean by imposing your will on another heavyweight, trying to knock them out.

"Everybody is head hunting right now, there is no body punching, there is no combination punching and no ... sweet science. I was the last man to use the sweet science, and nobody's really doing that any more. Not even the (Mike) Tyson phenomenon is there any more, with heavyweights going in there trying to knock out their opponent."

★

TYSON FURY

Lewis was also dismissive of Tyson Fury, which led to a now familiar Twitter rant from the young heavyweight against Lewis and David Haye. Fury will face Haye in a rescheduled bout on Feb. 8.

"The way I look at it," said Lewis, "Tyson Fury is just talk right now. He needs to prove himself, as a boxer. It's funny, because all he talks is a lot of fluff. I'm saying, 'Who is Tyson Fury?' His name does not even ring a bell, especially in the boxing fraternity right now. He hasn't proven himself. Once you prove yourself, then you can talk and try and get me back.

"Why would you want (to fight) me right now? I'm an old man, and you know what, even if I did put on my gloves right now, I'd probably knock him out – inside a round."

The long Twitter assault from Fury, some of it homophobic, drew criticism and prompted an investigation from the British Boxing Board of Control.

★

KHAN-MAYWEATHER

If the biggest boxing stories over the last month were actually true, Europe would be gearing up right now for two of the biggest fights in history. Instead, it was mostly hype.

Amir Khan reportedly was about to be involved in a multi-million dollar fight with Floyd Mayweather Jr., which drew strong denials. And Lennox Lewis was reported to be coming back to face a Klitschko for $100 million. Same newspaper, same reporter.

However, there is some truth in the words of Stephen Espinoza, the head of Showtime boxing, the network which has four more fights with Mayweather on his six-fight contract.

I spoke to Espinoza after the Mayweather-Canelo Alvarez fight outside the cavernous press room at the MGM Grand Garden Arena. Espinoza told me: "Amir Khan is a very interesting opponent (for Mayweather) because of his speed. What we saw against Saul Alvarez is that strength alone is not going to do it against Floyd Mayweather, so when you talk about hand speed and foot speed, then you start talking about two guys – Amir Khan and Adrien Broner. And whether or not Amir Khan lost to Danny Garcia ... Amir Khan is one of the fastest fighters out there in the world. It's a real possibility, and as a matchup, I like it a lot."

All fine and dandy. Khan most likely is being considered among a few potential opponents. But is Khan ready for Mayweather? Not yet. It really doesn't

stack up that he would face Mayweather in his first fight at welterweight after being out of the ring for 13 months.

Khan's team told me several times in October that a December fight – not against Mayweather, of course – is the objective.

★

FRANK MALONEY

Frank Maloney walked away from boxing in October after 30 years as a promoter, manager and mentor in the sport. "For the last year, I have gradually fallen out of love with boxing, and my passion has been missing. I did much soul searching over the summer, and my heart is no longer in the sport that I loved so much."

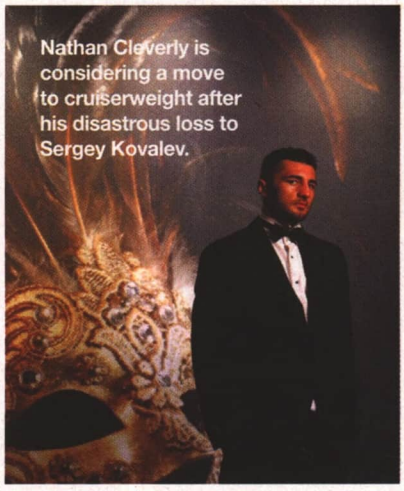
Maloney, coined 'the mental midget' and 'pugilistic pygmy' by rival Don King, made his name in the 1990s when he managed world heavyweight champion Lewis. A period with Haye, a role in the Julius Francis-Mike Tyson fight and the fact he promoted dozens of British, Commonwealth, European and international champions gave him a high standing in the sport. He had wanted to complete the same dream with David Price, but Price lost consecutive fights to Tony Thompson.

"The sport has changed so much over the last few years," he said. "So many boxers listen to the last person they meet, and trainers who give time but invest no money into the sport are afforded too much power.

"It has also been a tough time for me personally, and I feel a lot more at ease with myself by reaching the decision. I learned the trade from some great people, but a special mention must go to the late American fight promoter Dan Duva."

Maloney told me that he decided not to do a fanfare of interviews on leaving the sport. "I have too much to say, and if I said what I wanted to, I'd be making a rod for my own back. I'll be putting some clothes in the car, getting my two dogs in there and heading out across Europe, to lots of places I've never visited but always wanted to go to."

★



Nathan Cleverly is considering a move to cruiserweight after his disastrous loss to Sergey Kovalev.

NATHAN CLEVERLY

After a period of reflection, Nathan Cleverly is considering a move to cruiserweight after being stopped for the first time in his career when he lost the WBO light heavyweight title to Sergey Kovalev in August.

"It was a matter of just getting away from boxing a bit and just enjoying myself," said the Welshman. "Bit by bit towards the end of the break you start getting back to reality and leave those inclinations behind you.

"Those inclinations are what I'm going to base my future on, and we're going to give it another crack. It's not to just give it a go, it's to become world champion again. I will put my heart and soul in it, and that's what I'll do."

He went on: "I've been five years at light heavyweight now, since I was 20 years of age, so naturally my body has grown. But I felt maybe I lost that snap at light heavyweight. I just feel the last couple of fights I've lost that snap. So cruiserweight could be the weight."

★

RICKY HATTON AND CARL FRAMPTON

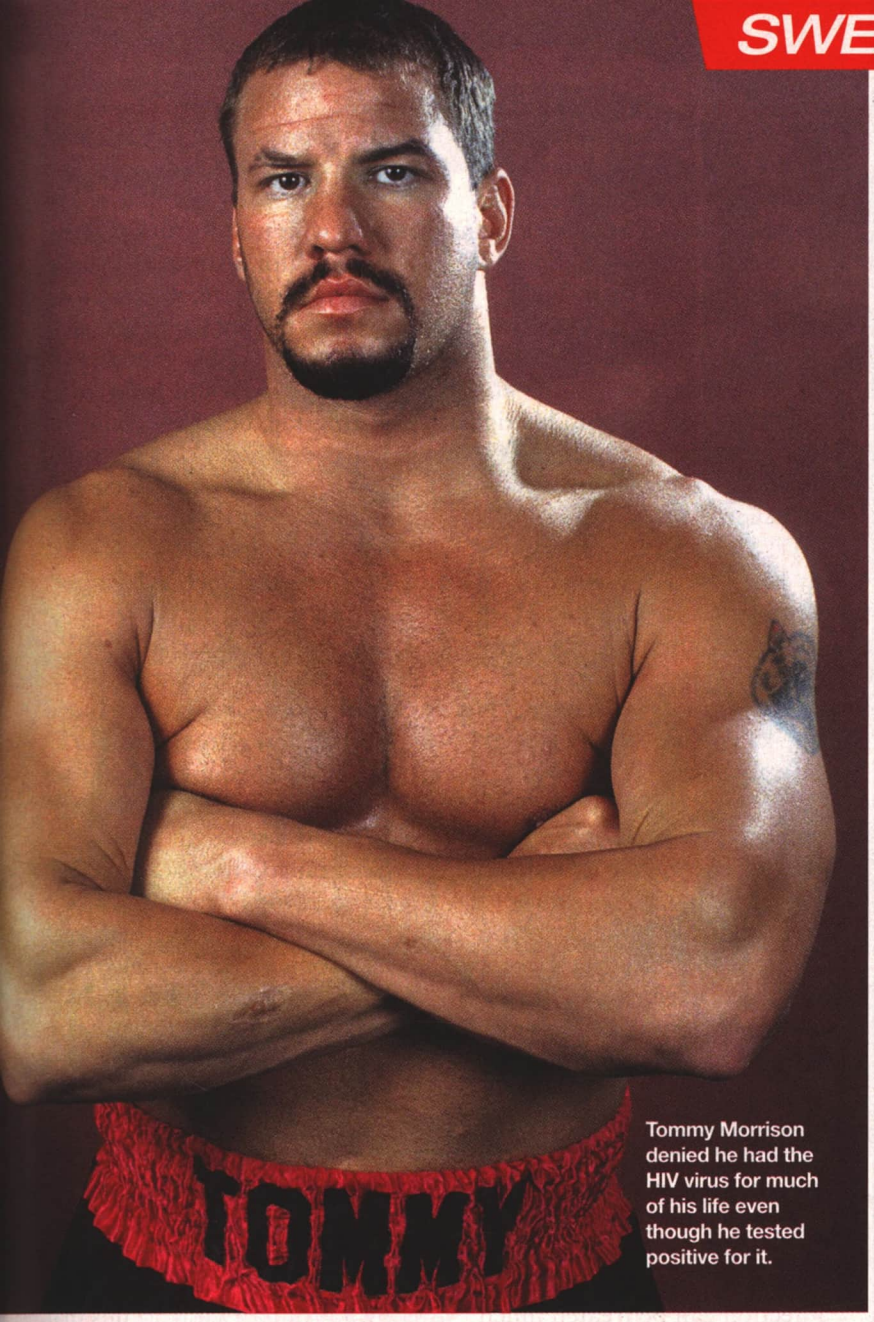
Carl Frampton is becoming a rising force on these shores. Ricky Hatton is very impressed with him. "I see very much of myself in him in the sense that he's not scared of fighting anyone. He's called Scott Quigg out, he's already beat Kiko Martinez, who's a current world champion," Hatton said the day before Frampton dispatched Jeremy Parodi in six rounds to retain his European junior featherweight title.

"Carl will most definitely become a world champion. Kiko Martinez just won the IBF title, and Scott Quigg just won the WBA equivalent [Editor's note: Guillermo Rigondeaux is the WBA's "super world" titleholder; Quigg ranks below the Cuban, having won what the sanctioning body calls its "world" title]. Scott Quigg is very, very good, he's very technical, but I think Frampton has more aggression. I would slightly edge it to Carl Frampton if they fought. But because they're with different promoters, I really don't see it happening."

That would be a great pity. Fighters not meeting when they should is happening far too often.

Cheers.

Gareth A Davies is Boxing Correspondent for *The Daily Telegraph*, London.



Tommy Morrison denied he had the HIV virus for much of his life even though he tested positive for it.

LEARNING OPPORTUNITY

BOXERS SHOULD BE AWARE AFTER TOMMY MORRISON'S LOSING BATTLE AGAINST AIDS

By **Scott LaFee**

When heavyweight boxer Tommy Morrison died in early September, it was neither his sterling record as a pro – 48-3-1 (42 knockouts) – nor the claim for a time that he was the next "Great White Hope" that people remember most about him.

It was the way he lived – and died. As best anyone can determine, the 44-year-old Morrison died of AIDS or complications of the disease. It's not entirely clear because Morrison, who tested positive for the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) in 1996, spent the rest of his life loudly disputing the diagnosis. Indeed, he publicly doubted the existence of HIV in his body, blamed steroids and claimed that rival promoters (perhaps even the government) were conspiring to keep him from fighting.

"It was denial, pure and simple, and he died of it," said Dr. Joe Estwanik, president of the Association of Ringside Physicians.

In at least one simple and undeniably sad way, it's easy to understand Morrison's refusal to accept the facts. Prior to his positive HIV test, Morrison had been a rising star.

In 1989, the then-undefeated prospect was tabbed by Sylvester Stallone to star in *Rocky V*, playing the role of Tommy "The Machine" Gunn, a talented protégé of Rocky Balboa. The role didn't make Morrison a movie star, but it certainly elevated his boxing career. He got high-profile bouts against fellow undefeated heavyweight Ray Mercer (Morrison's first loss) and subsequent victories over two-time world title challenger Carl "The Truth" Williams and the inimitable George Foreman, against whom he won the vacant WBO title in 1993.

Morrison soon lost the title in an upset to Michael Bentt, fought back over the course of several bouts to hook up against Razor Ruddock, whom he bested by TKO, and earned a much-anticipated 1995 fight against WBC champ Lennox Lewis.

Lewis knocked out Morrison in the sixth round, but the fighters evenly split the $16 million purse. There were plans for a rematch and $10 million purses for both men. Then came the HIV test. With the results, Morrison's career was effectively over.

In 1996, no boxer in his right mind would (or could) fight another boxer who was known or believed to be infected by HIV. The virus is transmissible by blood. "And boxing is obviously a blood sport," said Dr. Margaret Goodman, a former veteran ringside physician and neurologist. "No one knows how easily it might be transmitted in the ring. I don't think there are any proven cases of transmission between boxers, but the perception back then was that it was simply too dangerous, and when you consider the risk, that perception hasn't changed."

Decades of public education and medical advances have somewhat improved the general perception of HIV/AIDS. It is no longer considered to be an automatic death sentence. With access to the right cocktail of antiretroviral drugs and early, rigorous treatment, an HIV infection can be treated much like a chronic, but manageable, condition. Basketball superstar Magic Johnson tested positive for HIV in 1991 and immediately announced his retirement from the National Basketball Association, but he remains active as a businessman, celebrity and part-owner of the Los Angeles Dodgers.

The view from the ring and gym isn't quite so rosy, according to Goodman and Estwanik. Though boxers are decidedly more at risk from HIV infection than the ordinary man on the street, Goodman suspects most don't pay much attention.

"I don't think they really think about it," she said. "These are guys who usually don't even have health insurance. There's a certain naiveté, which maybe extends to ring personnel as well – the judges, referees, even the journalists and folks sitting at ringside. I can tell you when I attended fights as a physician, I always had blood on me somewhere – on my clothes, in my hair. You don't know what might be getting inside your mouth or nose."

To be sure, the risk of HIV transmission is relative and wildly varied. A tainted blood transfusion puts the risk of infection at roughly 9,000 per 10,000 exposures, according to a 2011 study by The Cochrane Collaboration and Centers for Disease Control (CDC). But shared drug needles and some sexual activities have a risk in the five-to-70 per 10,000 exposures range. The risk of HIV infection from biting, spitting or thrown body fluids (blood and saliva) is deemed negligible.

Both Goodman and Estwanik say there's a greater infectious scourge that threatens boxers. It's hepatitis, which is caused by a group of viral strains that assault the liver and are a major risk factor for hepatocellular carcinoma, or liver cancer.

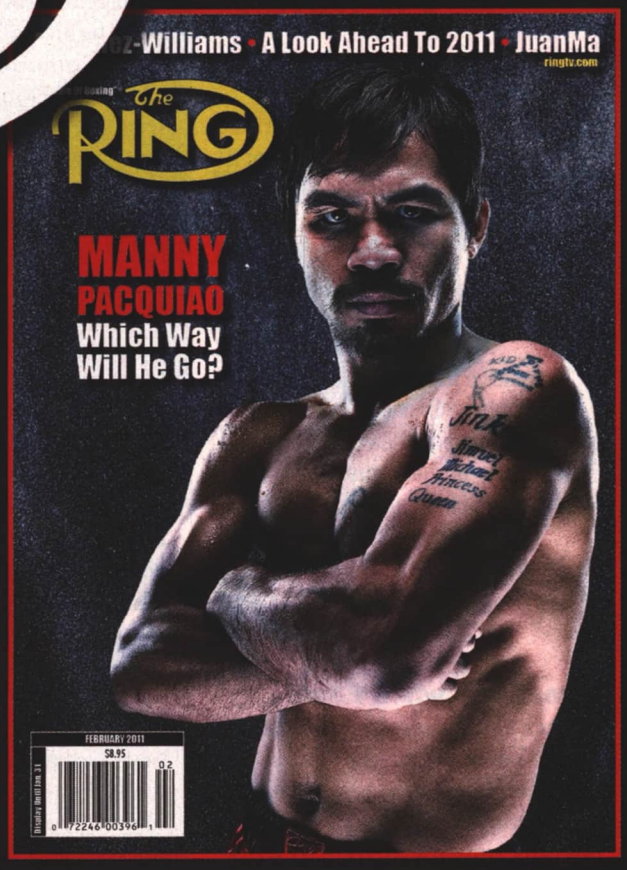
Hepatitis is generally transmitted in ways similar to HIV. It is contagious for one or more weeks before symptoms appear, and often symptoms are not apparent until the infection is well advanced. According to the CDC, from 1999 to 2007, more Americans died of hepatitis C (15,000) than HIV (13,000).

"Hep C is far more transferable than HIV," said Estwanik. "It kills, too."

The Bible of Boxing® since 1922!

The RING®

SUBSCRIBE AND SAVE AS MUCH AS 70%



© HOWARD SCHATZ

Please Check Off The One You Wish To Order:

Save Over 35% Off Newsstand Price!

☐ Six Issues of The Ring for $33.70* 610300

Save Over 50% Off Newsstand Price!

☐ One Year of The Ring for $53.70* 610300
Plus The Ring Digital Edition for Free (A $29.95 value)!

SUPER SAVER—Over 60% Off Newsstand!

☐ Two Years of The Ring for $78.70* 610300
Plus The Ring Digital Edition for Free (A $59.90 value)!

DIGITAL SUBSCRIPTION—Over 70% Off Newsstand!

☐ One Year of The Ring Digital Edition for $29.95

MAIL TO: Sports & Entertainment Publications LLC
P.O. Box 433122, Palm Coast, FL 32164-3122

TELEPHONE: 1-800-846-6438

E-MAIL: thering@emailcustomerservice.com

Please indicate method of payment:

☐ Check or money order (enclosed and payable to Sports & Entertainment Publications LLC)
☐ VISA ☐ MasterCard

Card #__ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __

Expiration Date: ___/___ (MO/YR) 3-DIGIT SECURITY CODE: __ __ __

Signature:_____

NAME_____

ADDRESS_____APT.____

CITY_____STATE_____ZIP_____

E-MAIL_____
(necessary for digital subscription)

TELEPHONE_____

*For Canada and Mexico: $52.50 for 6 issues; $86.70 for one year; $127.10 for two years. All other countries: $81 for 6 issues; $143.70 for one year; $210.60 for two years. International money orders only in U.S. funds only. Airmail shipping only outside the U.S. Please allow up to eight weeks before you receive your first magazine. Offer expires December 31, 2014

EDDIE GOMEZ

By **Mike Coppinger**

THE ESSENTIALS

Age: 21
Weight class: Welterweight
Height: 5 feet 7 inches
Stance: Orthodox
Hometown: Bronx, N.Y.
Record: 15-0 (10 knockouts)
Biggest Strengths: Impressive athlete ★ Heavy-handed fighter with one-punch power ★ Decorated amateur background.
Biggest question marks: Relies too much on athleticism at times ★ Chin hasn't been tested ★ Impact of his relatively short stature and reach (74 inches).

Sometimes when Eddie Gomez can't sleep, he goes for a run. These late-night jaunts (between five and seven miles) might come at 3 or 4:30 a.m., an ungodly time for anyone to work.

It's this tireless drive and dedication to his craft that has made Gomez one of the top prospects in the sport.

If anyone questioned Gomez's legitimacy as a fighter to watch, he left no room for doubters after his performance in August against veteran Steve Upsher Chambers. Gomez picked Chambers apart and scored a fourth-round stoppage.

Chambers, cruiserweight Eddie Chambers' younger brother, had never been stopped before.

"I'm a hungry fighter, I push myself more than I'm supposed to," Gomez said. " ... I'm just a different fighter. The things that other fighters aren't doing, I'm doing. The things that a fighter that is supposed to be ... getting ready for a major fight is not doing, I'm doing.

"I'm trying to go all out and above to make sure I'm more than ready for fight night. ... And once fight night comes, Golden Boy (Promotions) sees that."

Just 21, Gomez still lives with his mother and father – Honduran immigrants – in his native Bronx, N.Y. But as he moves into more meaningful fights, he plans to buy his own "low-key" place outside of the hubbub of New York.

Make no mistake, though: Gomez is a New Yorker at heart.

"E-Boy" got his start in boxing as an 8-year-old at Juan LaPorte's Boxing Gym in the Bronx. He was advanced for his age and began sparring with pros at 12 years old. Gomez made his way through the New York amateur boxing system all the way to winning the 2010 Golden Gloves.

Gomez caught the eye of top promoters and eventually signed with Oscar De La Hoya's outfit while in high school. Gomez turned pro at 18 years old and quickly demonstrated his athletic gifts and explosiveness in the ring.

Many of his early fights took place in Puerto Rico, but Golden Boy has been showcasing him on the New York market following their exclusive deal with Barclays Center in Brooklyn.

Gomez fought in his home state for the first time as a pro in 2011, a first-round TKO of Marcus Hall at the Paradise Theater in the Bronx, the main event of *Solo Boxeo*.

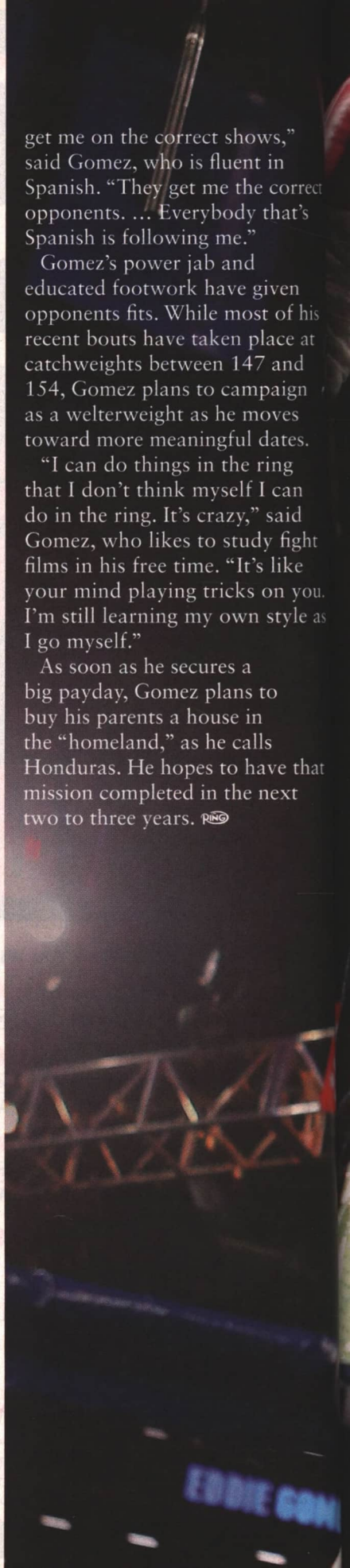
After that eye-catching performance, Gomez fought a few more times in Puerto Rico and other locales, but all of his bouts since September 2012 have taken place in New York as Golden Boy continues to build him into a local attraction.

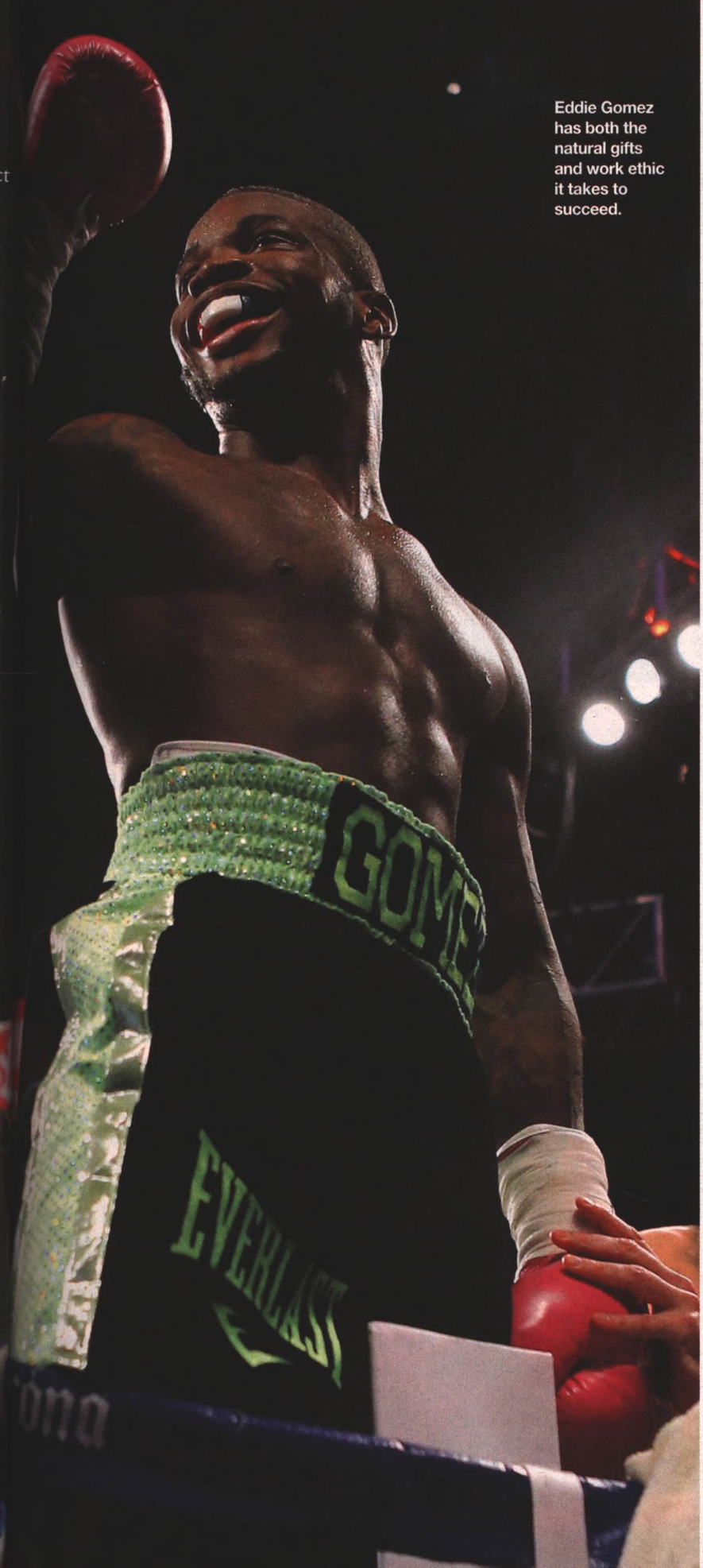
"Golden Boy plays a big, big part in making sure they get me on the correct shows," said Gomez, who is fluent in Spanish. "They get me the correct opponents. ... Everybody that's Spanish is following me."

Gomez's power jab and educated footwork have given opponents fits. While most of his recent bouts have taken place at catchweights between 147 and 154, Gomez plans to campaign as a welterweight as he moves toward more meaningful dates.

"I can do things in the ring that I don't think myself I can do in the ring. It's crazy," said Gomez, who likes to study fight films in his free time. "It's like your mind playing tricks on you. I'm still learning my own style as I go myself."

As soon as he secures a big payday, Gomez plans to buy his parents a house in the "homeland," as he calls Honduras. He hopes to have that mission completed in the next two to three years. RING





Eddie Gomez has both the natural gifts and work ethic it takes to succeed.

THREE MORE TO WATCH

TREVOR McCUMBY, LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT (13-0, 10 KOs)

McCumby has displayed fight-ending power in both hands and has the marketable good looks promoters love. The 21-year-old from Glendale, Ariz., reportedly compiled an amateur record of 138-11. He is signed to Top Rank.

OSCAR VALDEZ, FEATHERWEIGHT (6-0, 6 KOs)

The 22-year-old two-time Olympian for Mexico and world youth amateur champ already fights like a seasoned pro. Valdez, managed by Frank Espinoza and promoted by Top Rank, is an accurate-punching pressure fighter with heavy hands and a good body attack.

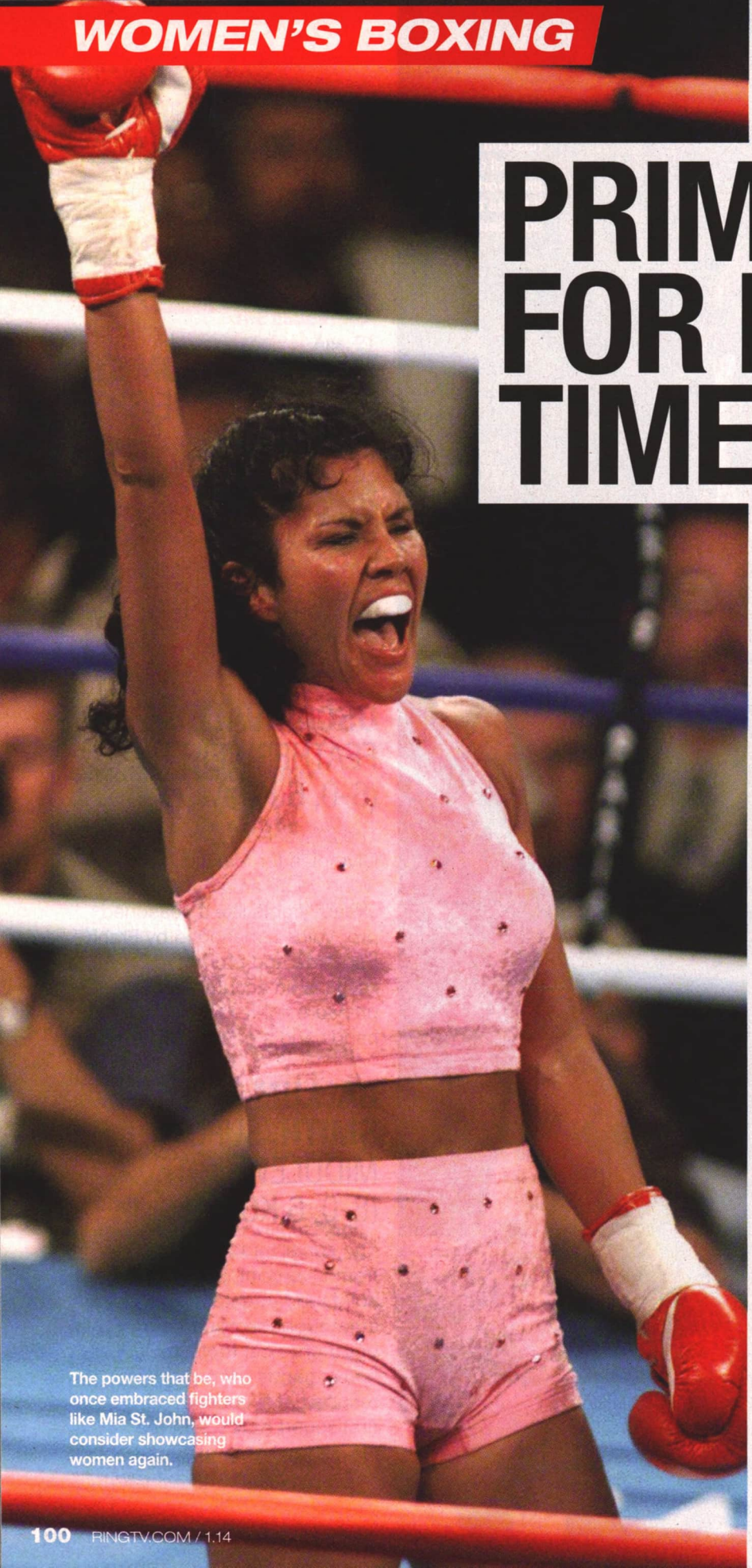
CALLUM SMITH, SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHT (8-0, 6 KOs)

The super middleweight from Liverpool, England, has solid fundamentals from his amateur background and good physical tools, including heavy hands – which have resulted in six consecutive first-round KOs – and the tall, rangy frame of a light heavyweight. He's a bit raw.

PRIMED FOR PRIME TIME?

THE WOMEN SEEM TO HAVE SOME HOPE OF RETURNING TO TELEVISION

By **Thomas Gerbasi**



The powers that be, who once embraced fighters like Mia St. John, would consider showcasing women again.

Lou DiBella wasn't always a believer in women's boxing. Despite routinely putting female fighters like Melissa McMorrow, Sonya Lamonakis and Keisha McLeod on his Broadway Boxing cards, and recently signing unbeaten Heather Hardy to a long-term deal, the former HBO Boxing czar and current promoter needed to be sold on the viability of women in the ring.

"Look, I didn't always defend the sport," said the always frank New Yorker. "When I was at HBO, I didn't put women's boxing on the air. When I first promoted, I didn't do cards that had women on them. But the quality of the talent pool has increased dramatically, and the fights that I have matched with women often turn out to be among the best fights on the card. The women are very offensive-minded, they put on a show, and they have fan bases that are as strong or often a little stronger than the men."

With an open mind, as well as

one that dictates "if it sells, you put it on," DiBella is one of the rare promoters at the higher level of the sport who has made a commitment to women's boxing. That's one major hurdle for the ladies to overcome.

The biggest? Getting on television.

"Boxing is supposed to be in the entertainment business," said DiBella. "And when you can put on a strong fight between two women who have local followings and put people in the seats, I see no reason whatsoever why they're not being televised."

But with the days of Mia St. John and Christy Martin competing on major Top Rank and Don King pay-per-view cards gone, and ESPN's heyday of airing bouts featuring Ann Wolfe, Bridgett Riley, Yvonne Trevino, Laila Ali and others a thing of the past, the women's side of the sport has suffered.

That's the bad news. The good news? There may be a light at the end of the televised tunnel that isn't a train.

"Women's boxing as a whole is as strong as it's been in recent history," said Stephen Espinoza, executive vice president of sports and event programming for Showtime. "Obviously the addition of the Olympic program is a big step, and I really think that the international fighters have really come on strong in the last few years. So, we've got talent spread all over the world, and not just American fighters. It's definitely a goal of mine to get women's boxing on Showtime. We've had a pretty crowded schedule lately, so it's probably going to look like 2014, but it's something that I've always had on my list of things that I want to get back to."

DiBella also plans to pitch ESPN on having women back on the network, even if only as swing bouts to start. And though the other side of boxing's premium cable street isn't as bold with their immediate plans, HBO isn't dismissing the idea of televising women in the future either, telling THE RING through a company spokesman, "Women's boxing is still very young. The grass-root programs, the Olympic Games and the professional ranks are still very early in development, and we're monitoring the progress."

It's as positive a development as the sport has seen in years. And with fighters such as RING pound-for-pounders Cecilia Braekhus, Jelena Mrdjenovich, Ava Knight, Layla McCarter and Melissa Hernandez – as well as Kaliesha West – there is plenty of talent out there suited for boxing's biggest stages. And as Espinoza points out, if women's boxing can find its equivalent of the stars who have recently energized women's MMA, it could be the tipping point for the sport.

"In my opinion, boxing is largely star-driven, and we really haven't had, at least in the recent past, that perfect storm of a Ronda Rousey or a Gina Carano, who has the charisma, the star power, and the fighting skills," he said. "You can certainly argue that those athletes are out there; they just haven't been discovered. And that's one way to look at it. But in any event, whether it's through coincidence or simply lack of looking, we haven't had that female star in the recent past, and I think that's why there hasn't really been a spotlight on the sport lately."

You can almost hear a brigade of fighting females running an extra mile in the morning or doing another round or two on the heavy bag in the hope that they will be the ones who break through. RING

POUND FOR POUND

1. CECILIA BRAEKHUS, Norway
23-0 (7 KOs)
Welterweight

2. ANNE SOPHIE MATHIS, France
27-3 (23 KOs)
Junior middleweight

3. AVA KNIGHT, U.S.
12-1-3 (5 KOs)
Flyweight

4. JELENA MRDJENOVICH, Canada
30-9-1 (15 KOS)
Featherweight

5. LAYLA McCARTER, U.S.
35-13-5 (8 KOs)
Junior middleweight

6. JESSICA CHAVEZ, Mexico
19-3-2 (4 KOs)
Junior flyweight

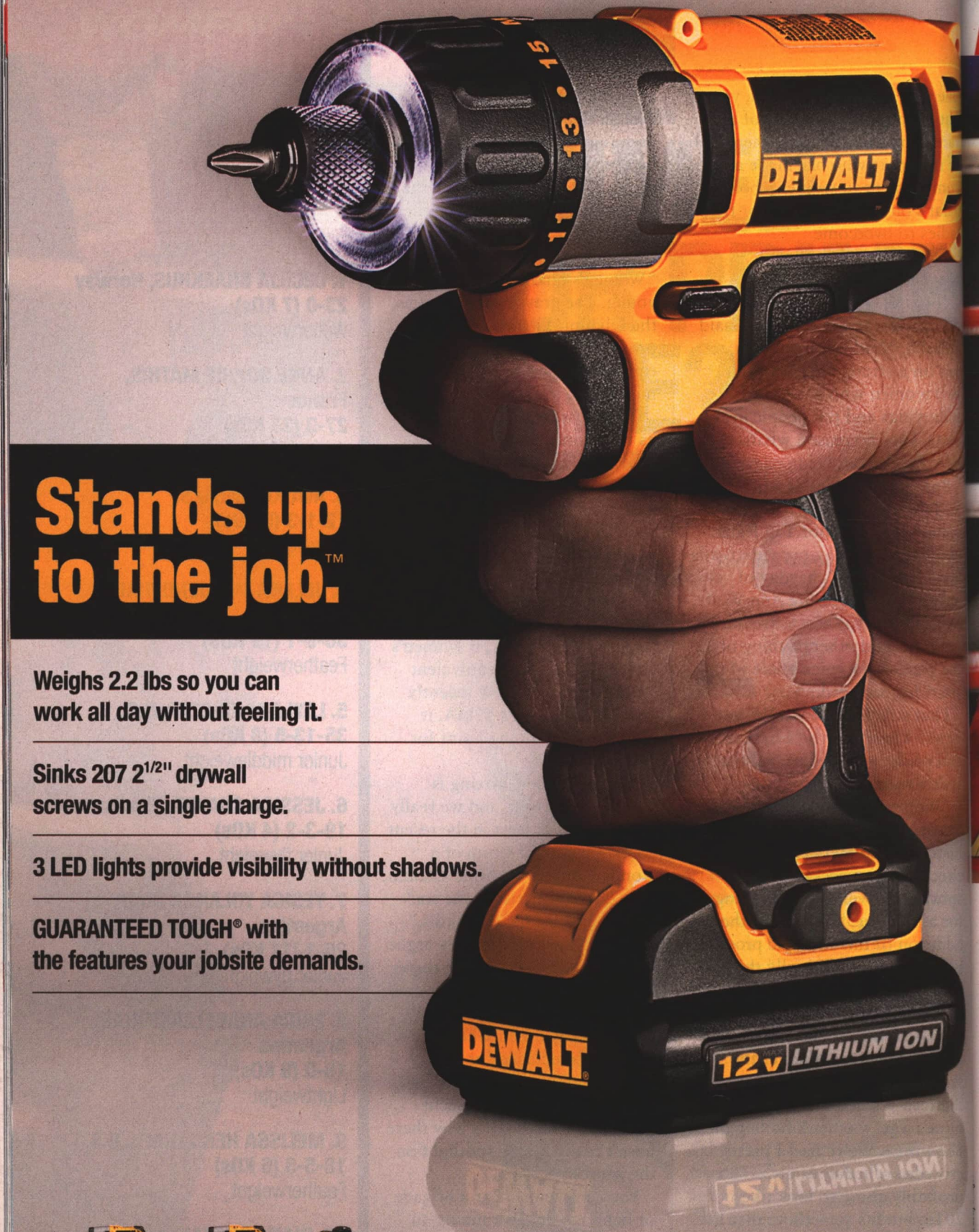
7. YESICA YOLANDA BOPP, Argentina
25-1 (11 KOs),
Junior flyweight

8. ERICA ANABELLA FARIAS, Argentina
18-0 (9 KOs)
Lightweight

9. MELISSA HERNANDEZ, U.S.
18-5-3 (6 KOs)
Featherweight

10. DIANA PRAZAK, Australia
12-2 (8 KOs)
Junior lightweight

Through fights of Oct.20



Stands up to the job.™

Weighs 2.2 lbs so you can work all day without feeling it.

Sinks 207 2 1/2" drywall screws on a single charge.

3 LED lights provide visibility without shadows.

GUARANTEED TOUGH® with the features your jobsite demands.

The New 12V MAX* Lithium Ion System

DEWALT

visit www.dewalt.com/12VM

*Maximum initial battery pack voltage (measured without a workload) is 12 volts. Measured under a workload, nominal voltage is 10.8.

Copyright © 2010 DEWALT. The following are examples of trademarks for one or more DEWALT Power Tools and Accessories: The yellow and black color scheme; the "D" – shaped air intake grill; the array of pyramids on the handgrip; t box configuration; and the array of lozenge-shaped humps on the surface of the tool.

Wladimir Klitschko mixed in more than enough punching with his holding and leaning to dominate Alexander Povetkin.

WLADIMIR KLITSCHKO UD 12 **ALEXANDER POVETKIN**

Date: Oct. 5
Site: SC Olimpiyskiy Arena, Moscow
Division: Heavyweight
Weights: Klitschko 241.6 pounds; Povetkin 225.75
Ring rating (going into the fight): Klitschko C; Povetkin No. 1
Network: BoxNation

★ Wladimir Klitschko's reign has reached a critical point. It's not *if* anymore. It's *how.*

Alexander Povetkin figured to fall. And he did, hitting the canvas four times – once in the second round and three times in the seventh – from tactics that were more take-down than boxing. Klitschko's victory was predictable. The decision was unanimous. So was the criticism.

Klitschko's pushing and clinching drained whatever anticipation there was for a title fight in Povetkin's home country. Boos from Russians, who had hoped to cheer their 2004 Olympic gold medalist, began seconds after the opening bell. Whatever chance Povetkin (26-1, 18 knockouts) had was suffocated by Klitschko (61-3, 51 KOs), a 1996 gold medalist from Ukraine.

Klitschko simply would not take a chance. Perhaps that was wise, especially when a hometown decision was feared. Maybe it was a business decision. Klitschko collected $17,499,997, or most of the $23.3 million Russian promoters paid for rights to the fight. Maybe legacy was more important than a risky attempt at a stoppage of Povetkin. Whatever it was, the criticism will eventually fade. Klitschko's record will not.

In beating Povetkin, he has another successful title defense. It's at 22 over two reigns and counting. He's tied for second with Muhammad Ali on a heavyweight list led by Joe Louis at 25. Klitschko is alongside legends.

He kept himself in the chase to overtake Louis by making sure that Povetkin never could put together a counterattack. Klitschko would clinch and lean on Povetkin, who often found himself almost doubled over at the waist from the weight Klitschko placed on the back of his neck and shoulders. Referee Luis Pabon penalized Klitschko a point in the 11th. By then, however, it was too late to make a difference. Klitschko was a 119-104 winner

ALEXANDER NEMENOV/AFP/Getty Images

Miguel Cotto seemed to turn back the clock in a dominating victory over Delvin Rodriguez.

on all three cards.

Povetkin didn't dispute the decision, but he asked for a rematch. Good luck with that.

For Klitschko, the task is to find an opponent who allows him to continue winning while making him look good. It's a dilemma, in part because he didn't leave fans asking for an encore. It's also a problem because of Klitschko's many titles. His alphabet collection – IBF, WBO and WBA – means mandatories, which could continue with Kubrat Pulev, who became the No. 1 contender in THE RING's ratings after Povetkin's fall.

An intriguing possibility has surfaced in unbeaten American Deontay Wilder, whose 29 knockouts in his first 29 fights are hard to ignore. Wilder might be a way for Klitschko to re-enter the U.S. market. Klitschko talked about Seth Mitchell before Mitchell's weak chin was exposed by Johnathon Banks, who became Klitschko's trainer after Emanuel Steward died. In comments to Eastern European reporters, Klitschko mentioned Wilder.

Against Wilder, perhaps in 2014, Klitschko might be able to add some critical acclaim to the predictable victories.

- Norm Frauenheim

MIGUEL COTTO TKO 3 DELVIN RODRIGUEZ

Date: Oct. 5
Site: Amway Center, Orlando, Fla.
Division: Junior middleweight
Weights: Cotto 153.2 pounds; Rodriguez 154
Ring rating (going into the fight): Cotto No. 4; Rodriguez not rated.
Network: HBO

★ Miguel Cotto reaffirmed his credentials and his popularity.

The credentials were always there, although there was doubt after successive losses to Floyd Mayweather Jr. and then Austin Trout. An intriguing change arrived in Cotto's corner with offensive-minded trainer Freddie Roach, who helped the Puerto Rican rediscover feared skills that left a mark on Mayweather and many others.

Rodriguez was dismissed as a credible opponent, although he also lost a unanimous decision to Trout in 2012, by scores similar to Trout's upset of Cotto about six months later. What mattered, however, was the way in which Cotto won.

The familiar body attack was there, especially in a first round punctuated by paralyzing left hooks. Then, the predatory instinct kicked in. Late in the second, Cotto (38-4, 31 KOs), sensing that Rodriguez (28-7, 16 KOs) was hurt, struck with a staggering combo. Not even the break between rounds could save Rodriguez from the inevitable. Cotto swarmed him in the opening seconds of the third, rocking Rodriquez with an uninterrupted assault that ended with a left hook. At 18 seconds of the round, Rodriguez was down. Referee Frank Santore Jr. had seen enough and stopped it.

Punch stats probably provided the best way to measure Cotto's comeback. According to CompuBox, Cotto landed 47 power shots. More than half were to the body. That's the Cotto everybody remembers.

"We were able to get back to basics," Cotto told ringside reporters.

Reapplication of those basics means

Cotto is still a serious player, instead of a faded legend on a farewell tour. But power and placement of those punches are just part of it. He also scored a victory at the box office. HBO reported an audience of 1.555 million for the non-pay-per-view fight, the highest in 2013. It was also the second best in Cotto's career, behind the 1.597 million for his 2010 victory over Yuri Foreman.

He's a proven draw. That means Canelo Alvarez and/or Sergio Martinez will come to the negotiating table for a chance at big money generated by Cotto. Both were mentioned after he beat Rodriguez.

"I am not closing any doors on a fight with Alvarez, but there will have to be some discussions with Top Rank," Cotto said in a reference to the Top Rank-Golden Boy feud that keeps so many fights from happening.

The most likely option might be Martinez, the 160-pound champion who is tied to neither Top Rank nor Golden Boy. He's promoted by Lou DiBella.

But Roach also had his eye on a Cotto rematch with the pound-for-pound king, who has yet to fight the Roach-trained Manny Pacquiao.

"Miguel told me that if he were in the shape that he's in right now, he would have won that fight," Roach said. "So I'm sure he would definitely welcome a rematch."

Yeah, wouldn't we all.

- Norm Frauenheim

TIMOTHY BRADLEY SD 12 JUAN MANUEL MARQUEZ

Date: Oct. 12
Site: Thomas & Mack Center, Las Vegas
Division: Welterweight
Weights: Bradley 146; Marquez 144.5
Ring rating (going into the fight): Bradley No. 4; Marquez No. 1
Network: HBO

★ When it's time to judge Timothy Bradley's career, it might be defined by split decisions. He'll certainly be remembered for two of them. First, there was the split scoring in his decision over Manny Pacquiao. Then, there was Juan Manuel Marquez.

Split decisions are controversial by definition. But the redundancy is worth repeating when it applies to Bradley. It seems as if he can only get a unanimous decision on being a good guy.

The controversy about his career continued with his split decision over Marquez, who left no doubts in his own victory over Pacquiao with a sixth-round knockout. The debate wasn't as noisy or as long as the one that raged after Bradley's split decision over Pacquiao in 2012. Still, it was there at a news conference marked by bitter objections from Marquez and his trainer, Nacho Beristain.

"In his heart, Timothy Bradley knows he lost," Beristain complained.

There was no news on whether Beristain watched HBO's replay. If he had, it would be interesting to hear if his own heart had undergone any change. Yes, it was a close. What Bradley fight isn't? Even his unanimous decision in March over Ruslan Provodnikov in a Fight of the Year contender was controversial.

Against Marquez, judges Glenn Feldman, Robert Hoyle and Patricia Morse Jarman agreed on only five rounds – the second, fifth, sixth and seventh for Bradley and the ninth for Marquez. Along press row, there was talk that six of the rounds could have been scored even.

Bradley (31-0, 12 KOs) gained an edge in those middle rounds with a quick jab that kept Marquez off balance and unable to alter the momentum with his counter. Hoyle and Jarman scored it for Bradley, 115-113 and 116-112, respectively. On Feldman's card, it was 115-113 for Marquez, who was staggered by a left in the fight's closing seconds.

"That win is my ticket to the Boxing Hall of Fame," Bradley said. "I beat a great champion. I jabbed over and over. He couldn't touch me. I gave him a boxing lesson."

But not one that Marquez (55-7-1, 40 KOs) would accept. He talked about retiring.

"It's a difficult decision," Marquez said.

He then asked reporters what they thought he should do. He was told he might have few more fights left in him.

"I don't think so," he said as he walked out of Thomas & Mack and into an uncertain future.

Bradley's future isn't exactly clear either. A rematch with Pacquiao might be there if Pacquiao prevails against Brandon Rios on Nov. 23. Rios is also a possibility, especially if he upsets Pacquiao. Then there's a potential rematch with Provodnikov, who stopped Mike Alvarado in an eye-opening victory on Oct. 19.

Whichever route Bradley takes, it's safe to say there's more controversy in the cards awaiting him.

- Norm Frauenheim

NO. 2 ROMAN GONZALEZ KO 7 FRANCISCO RODRIGUEZ JR.

Sept. 21, Managua, Nicaragua

★ Roman Gonzalez, forever searching for big fights and meaningful challenges, found neither in a one-sided fight against Francisco Rodriguez Jr. in Gonzalez's hometown.

The longtime strawweight and junior flyweight titleholder was fighting at flyweight, where he figures to settle sometime soon. Rodriguez, a southpaw from Mexico, didn't provide much resistance as Rodriguez cruised to an easy victory. The ending was strange. Rodriguez (11-2, 9 KOs) seemed to be in good shape when the fight was stopped – 1:10 into the seventh round – but the outcome seemed inevitable.

Gonzalez (36-0, 30 KOs) is scheduled to face Oscar Blanquet on Nov. 10 in Tokyo but obviously has his sights on bigger game, possibly against big-name Japanese fighters like RING champ Akira Yaegashi.

JULIO CESAR CHAVEZ JR. UD 10 BRYAN VERA

Sept. 28, Carson, Calif. (HBO)

★ There are no excuses at the opening bell, unless you're Julio Cesar Chavez Jr.

Chavez behaved as if he'll always be a Jr. and never a grown-up in a decision over Bryan Vera. First, he couldn't make weight. But, hey, when you're the son of Mexico's greatest fighter, you're entitled to extra pounds. Right?

Chavez let everybody know he wouldn't make 168. A mockery of weigh-in tradition and regulation followed. Promoters made it up as they went along. Chavez (47-1-1, 32 KOs) weighed in at 172.5 pounds; Vera was 171.25. Super middleweight became something else. Twelve rounds became 10. Was that a light heavyweight bout or a SNL skit?

To top it off – surprise, surprise –

Jr.'s unanimous victory on the cards was controversial.

"It made me sick to my stomach," Vera said.

Enough said.

CHAMPION ADONIS STEVENSON TKO 7 NO. 3 TAVORIS CLOUD

Sept. 28, Montreal (HBO)

★ Emanuel Steward is gone, but the late trainer's promise about Adonis Stevenson continues to unfold.

There was no interruption in Stevenson's ascendancy to stardom with a thorough defense of his RING light heavyweight championship against Tavoris Cloud, who quit before the eighth round with cuts over both eyes.

Stevenson (22-1, 19 KOs) dedicated the victory to Steward, who began training the Canadian before his death in October 2012. Stevenson said Steward told him that, if he got the chance, he'd knock out Chad Dawson and Cloud.

Dawson lasted 76 seconds in a stunner last June. It took longer against Cloud (24-2, 19 KOs), but it proved Stevenson is no one-punch wonder. Cloud was exhausted by a stubborn assault to the body from Stevenson, whose display of newfound versatility should make him the favorite against Tony Bellew on Nov. 30.

NO. 2 SCOTT QUIGG D 12 YOANDRIS SALINAS

Oct. 5, London

★ There is no shame in drawing with a slick, well-tuned product of the Cuban system. That doesn't mean much to Scott Quigg, though.

The hard-punching junior featherweight from Bury, England, got off to a slow start against Yoandris Salinas (20-0-2, 13 KOs) but seized the momentum and finished strongly in front of his countrymen. However, he apparently should've picked up the pace earlier. The scores were 115-113 for Quigg, 114-114 and 114-114, a majority draw.

It was Quigg's second draw in four fights, although he avenged the first one by stopping Rendall Munroe in November of last year. Salinas, a one-time amateur star, also has two draws.

"I stuck to the plan, felt in control all the way through, and I'm gutted I didn't get the win," Quigg (26-0-2, 19 KOs) told the BBC. "He's a world-class fighter, and I've proved I belong at world level. Maybe I should have put the gas on a round earlier."

GRIGORY DROZD TKO 11 NO. 6 MATEUSZ MASTERNAK

Oct. 5, Moscow

★ Grigory Drozd, a Russian who turned pro in 2001, apparently is coming into his own at 34.

The longtime cruiserweight contender stopped then-unbeaten and No. 6-rated Mateusz Masternak 53 seconds into the 11th round before home-country fans on the Wladimir Klitschko-Alexander Povetkin card, the biggest victory in Drozd's career.

Drozd (37-1, 26 KOs) controlled the fight from the second round on, hurting Masternak (30-1, 22 KOs) on several occasions and opening a cut over his left eye. Drozd then forced the referee to end matters by pummeling Masternak in a corner in the 11th round.

The Russian's only loss came by fifth-round knockout against Firat Arslan in a title eliminator in 2006. He has won 12 fights since.

NO. 10 TERENCE CRAWFORD UD 10 ANDREY KLIMOV

Oct. 5, Orlando, Fla.

★ Terence Crawford had no trouble whatsoever with previously undefeated Andrey Klimov, winning every round on all three scorecards on the Miguel Cotto-Delvin Rodriguez card.

Klimov (16-1, 8 KOs) is a decent boxer who beat John Molina in his previous fight but couldn't match the speed and skills of Crawford, a former amateur star from Nebraska who seems destined for success. The Russian landed only 57 punches, according to CompuBox.

Crawford (22-0, 16 KOs) probably didn't make any fans because the fight was boring. However, the thorough victory made him the mandatory challenger for Ricky Burns' WBO lightweight title.

One problem, though: Burns suffered a broken jaw in his controversial victory over Raymundo Beltran in September. There's no telling when the Scot will be ready to fight again.

You can be sure Crawford will be ready if and when it happens.

NO. 3 ORLANDO SALIDO KO 7 ORLANDO CRUZ

Oct. 12, Las Vegas (HBO)

★ Orlando Cruz had the heart and boxing skills but not the punching power, which led to his demise.

Orlando Salido walked through his opponent's offense to land one hard punch – including that crazy overhand right – after another. Cruz, brave but ill-equipped, absorbed many of the shots but was ultimately broken down. The ending was brutal. Cruz's back was against the ropes when Salido landed a hard right to his neck and followed with a left uppercut, which sent Cruz to his knees unable to continue. The fight was stopped at 1:05 of the round.

Salido (40-12-2, 28 KOs) won the WBO 126-pound title Mikey Garcia lost on the scales against Juan Manuel Lopez. Garcia defeated Salido by an eighth-round technical decision in January 2012.

Cruz (20-3-1, 10 KOs) made headlines by announcing before the fight that he is gay. He was fighting for a major title for the first time.

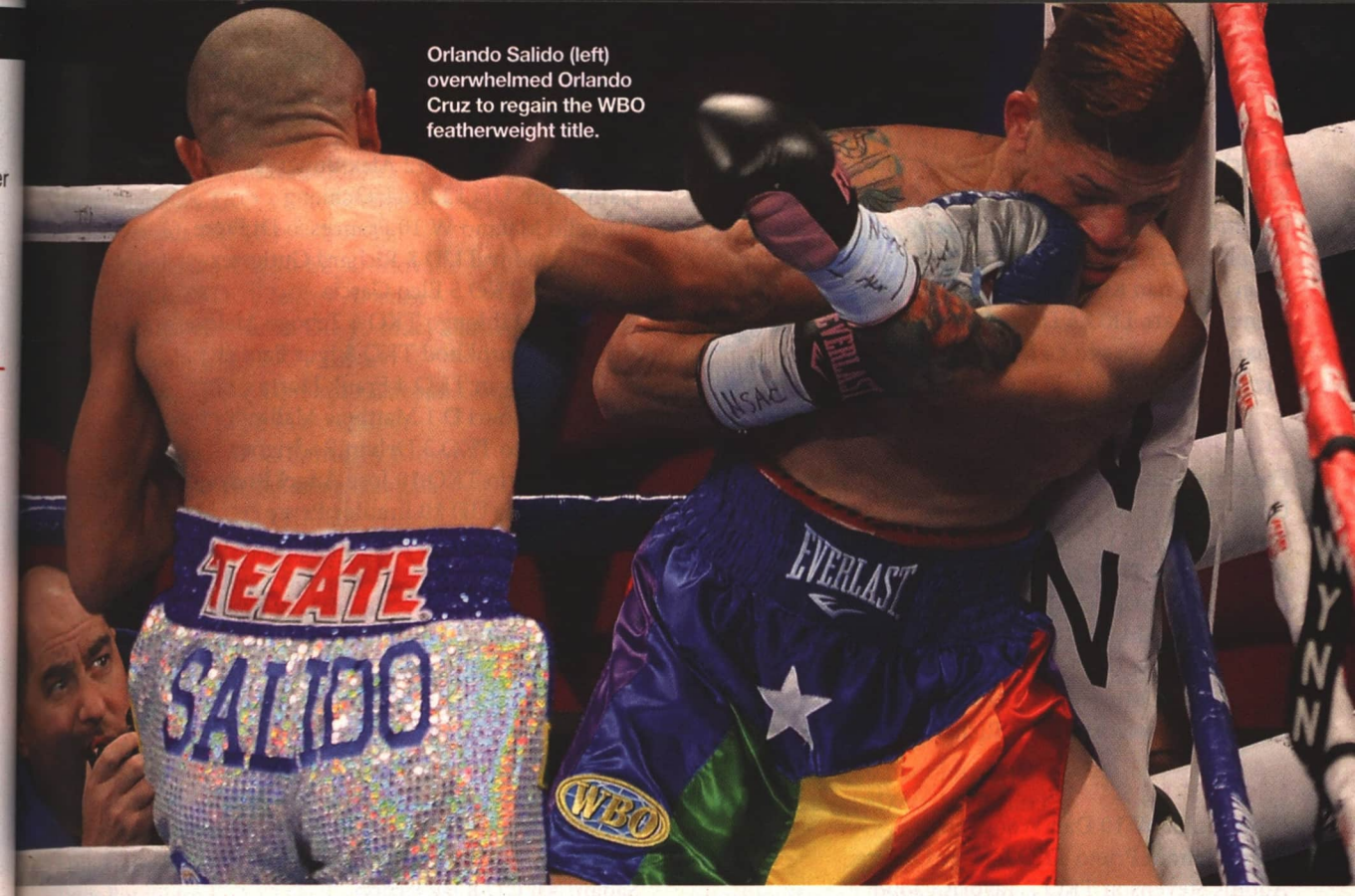
VASYL LOMACHENKO KO 4 JOSE RAMIREZ

Oct. 12, Las Vegas

★ Vasyl Lomachenko lived up to his unfathomable amateur record of 396-1, stopping an overwhelmed Jose Ramirez in the fourth round of a scheduled 10-round featherweight bout on the Timothy Bradley-Juan Manuel Marquez card.

The two-time Olympic champion from Ukraine appears to have it all – great speed and reflexes, sharpshooting offensive skills, slick defensive moves and good power, as well as uncommon poise for a fighter still transitioning into the pro ranks.

It was all too much for Ramirez (25-4,



Orlando Salido (left) overwhelmed Orlando Cruz to regain the WBO featherweight title.

15 KOs), who twice went down from body shots. That included the knockout blow, which sent the Mexican to all fours, and he was unable to get up. The end came at 2:59.

Lomachenko could face WBO titleholder Orlando Salido in what some are calling his second pro fight. In fact, before he met Ramirez, he was paid to fight six times in the World Series of Boxing.

NO. 6 RUSLAN PROVODNIKOV KO 10 NO. 3 MIKE ALVARADO

Oct. 19, Denver (HBO)

★ Ruslan Provodnikov is a born destroy-or-be-destroyed warrior who is willing to take two or three punches (or four or five) to give three or four (or five or six). Mike Alvarado learned that firsthand.

The Russian ripped into the tough hometown boy – debilitating body shots, hard combinations to the head – until he had gone down twice in the eighth round and, his face a swollen mess and stomach aching, had no choice but to call it quits after the ninth.

Provodnikov (23-2, 16 KOs) took Alvarado's WBO 140-pound title, his first major belt. He also proved that his close loss to Timothy Bradley in March, in which Bradley was nearly stopped, was no fluke. Provodnikov presumably will be a candidate to take on the winner of the Manny Pacquiao-Brandon Rios fight.

Alvarado (34-2, 23 KOs) was coming off a unanimous-decision victory over Rios in their rematch, but he has now lost two of his past three fights.

NO. 3 CARL FRAMPTON KO 6 JEREMY PARODI

Oct. 19, Belfast, Northern Ireland

★ Carl Frampton, the Irish junior featherweight, could be one step away from winning his first world title.

The Belfast lad didn't get much resistance in a title eliminator from Frenchman Jeremy Parodi, who lost every round and was stopped by a body shot in the sixth round before Frampton's hometown fans at Odyssey Arena.

The official ending came with one second remaining in the round.

Frampton (17-0, 12 KOs) is now in position to face the winner of the Dec. 21 fight between IBF titleholder Kiko Martinez and Jeffrey Mathebula. Frampton stopped Martinez in nine rounds in February 2012, six months before Martinez KO'd Jhonatan Romero to win the belt.

"I feel great," Frampton told Box Nation after the Parodi fight. "Every super bantamweight in the world, I am coming for you."

JUAN DIAZ UD 10 JUAN SANTIAGO

Oct. 19, Denver (HBO)

★ Juan Diaz left boxing in 2010 after losing three of four fights because, he said, he needed a break. The former lightweight champ seems to be fully rested.

The aggressive Diaz (38-4, 19 KOs) took it to journeyman Juan Santiago (14-11-1, 8 KOs) as he has to so many opponents in his successful career, winning an easy 10-round decision on the Ruslan Provodnikov-Mike Alvarado card.

The Houstonian is 3-0 since returning from an almost three-year hiatus, although he has eased back into boxing against little-known opponents to shake off any rust from the long layoff.

Diaz, 30, now appears to be ready to take a step up in opposition. And his name recognition – as well as pleasing all-action style – should lead to an important fight against a top 135-pounder sometime soon.

FIGHT RESULTS

THROUGH OCT. 20 (CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER)

HEAVYWEIGHTS

Dereck Chisora TKO 5 Edmund Gerber
Wladimir Klitschko UD 12 Alexander Povetkin
Ruslan Chagaev UD 12 Jovo Pudar
Joseph Parker TKO 2 Afa Tatupu
Jason Bergman KO 1 John L. Smith
Manuel Charr TKO 6 Denis Bakhtov
Johann Duhaupas KO 4 Jarno Rosberg
Krzysztof Zimnoch UD 8 Art Binkowski

CRUISERWEIGHTS

Francisco Antonio Mora TKO 9 Rodrigo Benech
Daniel Bruwer KO 8 Sofiane Sebihi
Danie Venter KO 1 Shawn Cox
Kevin Lerena TKO 2 Ibrahim Labaran
Grigory Drozd TKO 11 Mateusz Masternak
Rakhim Chakhkiev KO 10 Giulian Ilie
Tony Conquest UD 10 Wadi Camacho
Ruben Angel Mino TKO 4 Nestor Insaurralde
Krzysztof Glowacki TKO 4 Richard Hall

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS

Leon Senior W 10 Dan Woodgate
Isidro Ranoni Prieto TKO 6 Jorge Olivera
Adonis Stevenson TKO 7 Tavoris Cloud
Eleider Alvarez UD 10 Edison Miranda
Jean Pascal TKO 5 George Blades
Harry Simon UD 12 Geard Ajetovic
Julio Cesar Chavez Jr. UD 10 Bryan Vera
Nadjib Mohammedi UD 10 Patrick Bois
Sean Monaghan TKO 3 Anthony Smith
Blake Caparello UD 12 Allan Green
Erik Skoglund UD 12 Lolenga Mock
Dominic Boesel MD 10 Mirko Ricci

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS

Samy Anouche W 8 Hugo Kasperski
Zac Dunn KO 2 Mirko Manquecoy
Rocky Fielding TKO 1 Mohammed Akrong
Callum Smith TKO 1 Patrick Mendy
Robert Stieglitz UD 12 Isaac Ekpo

MIDDLEWEIGHTS

Les Sherrington UD 12 Shigetaka Yonezawa
Ronny Mittag UD 12 Andrei Abramenka
Max Bursak UD 12 Nick Blackwell
Billy Joe Saunders UD 12 John Ryder
Caleb Truax TKO 4 Cerresso Fort
David Lemieux UD 8 Marcus Upshaw
Matt Korobov UD 8 Grady Brewer
Paul Mendez TKO 6 Rahman Mustafa Yusubov
Marat Kulumbegov UD 10 Mikheil Khutsishvili
Marcos Reyes MD 12 Rogelio Medina
Eamonn O'Kane UD 12 Kerry Hope

JUNIOR MIDDLEWEIGHTS

Daniel Dawson UD 12 Alex Bunema
Liam Smith UD 12 Erick Ochieng
Marcello Matano W 10 Francesco Di Fiore
Daniel Sandoval UD 8 Richard Gutierrez
Glen Tapia TKO 5 Elco Garcia
Nkululeko Mhlongo TKO 6 Tebogo Malose
Stanyslav Skorokhod TKO 5 Igor Fanian
Sasha Yengoyan TKO 4 Frank Horta
Navid Mansouri D 1 Matthew Mallin
Miguel Cotto TKO 3 Delvin Rodriguez
Jermell Charlo TKO 10 Jose Angel Rodriguez
Torben Keller UD 10 Bradley Pryce
Omar Chavez UD 10 Joachim Alcine

WELTERWEIGHTS

Teerachai Kratingdaenggym TKO 1 Randy Suico
Sirimongkol Singmanasak KO 3 Ronnel Esparas
Juan Jose Dias UD 12 Victor Velazquez
Frankie Gavin UD 12 David Barnes
Ronald Cruz KO 10 Alberto Morales
Breidis Prescott UD 10 Edinson Garcia
Karim Mayfield KO 8 Christopher Fernandez
Tsiko Mulovhedzi UD 12 Nthuthuko Memela
Sadam Ali UD 8 Jay Krupp
Cesar Barrionuevo UD 12 Ramon de la Cruz Sena
Suyon Takayama UD 10 Cobra Suwa
Bethuel Ushona UD 12 Kaizer Mabuza
Jessie Vargas UD 10 Ray Narh
Timothy Bradley SD 12 Juan Manuel Marquez
Vivian Harris SD 10 Danny O'Connor
Ceferino Rodriguez TKO 7 Stefano Castellucci
Rafal Jackiewicz UD 8 Michal Zerominski

JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHTS

Selcuk Aydin TKO 4 DeMarcus Corley
Mauricio Herrera UD 8 Miguel Angel Huerta
Humberto Soto UD 12 Mahonri Montes
Ramiro Alcaraz W 8 Antonio Lozada Jr.
Michael Perez UD 10 Miguel Zuniga
Viktor Postol UD 12 Ignacio Mendoza
Alberto Mosquera SD 12 Erick Bone
Jose Lopez TKO 4 Miguel Angel Lopez
Ricardo Alvarez TKO 5 Humberto Martinez
Leandro Mendes Pinto TKO 10 Juan Alberto Rios
(F) Alejandra Oliveras TKO 7 Lely Luz Florez
Czar Amonsot KO 10 Stevi Ongen Ferdinandus
Roberto Ortiz UD 12 Reyes Sanchez
Patrick Lopez UD 10 Alejandro Heredia
Ruslan Provodnikov TKO 10 Mike Alvarado

LIGHTWEIGHTS

Mark Davis UD 10 Carlos Vinan
Stephen Ormond TKO 1 Adam Mate
Fernando Carcamo KO 2 Vicente Escobedo

Abdiel Ramirez TKO 2 Jose Angel Apodaca
Oliver Flores UD 9 Marcos Mojica
Derry Mathews TKO 4 Curtis Woodhouse
Walter Estrada UD 10 Jose Zuniga
Diego Magdaleno UD 10 Edgar Riovalle
Masayuki Ito TKO 10 Jeffrey Arienza
(F) Erica Anabella Farias UD 10 Mary McGee
Yoshitaka Kato UD 12 Rey Labao
Paulus Moses TKO 7 Leonardo Esteban Gonzalez
Kevin Mitchell TKO 6 Marco Lopez
Terence Crawford UD 10 Andrey Klimov
Sipho Taliwe UD 10 Takalane Dangala
Stephen Ormond UD 10 Adam Dingsdale
Roy Mukhlis UD 12 Weng Haya
Rod Salka UD 10 Ryan Belasco
Kirk Goodings UD 10 Paul Truscott
Alejandro Luna TKO 6 Daniel Attah
Juan Diaz UD 10 Juan Santiago

JUNIOR LIGHTWEIGHTS

Edgar Puerta SD 10 Guadalupe Rosales
Rene Bestudio UD 10 Jonel Alibio
Mzonke Fana W 12 Takalani Ndlovu
Liam Walsh MD 12 Joe Murray
Devis Boschiero UD 12 Guillaume Frenois
Adrian Estrella TKO 4 Cesar Vazquez
Rendall Munroe W 10 Andy Townend
Jose Felix Jr. KO 1 Joseph Laryea
Jack Asis D 10 Hirohito Fukuhara
Oscar Gonzalez UD 10 Hector Velazquez
Carlos Diaz Ramirez UD 8 Sergio Nunez
Masao Nakamura KO 1 Fahsai Sakkreerin

FEATHERWEIGHTS

Robinson Castellanos KO 6 Derrick Wilson
Jimmy Paypa UD 10 Jason Redondo
Adeilson Dos Santos TKO 2 Marcos Martinez
Josh Warrington UD 10 Ian Bailey
Jonathan Victor Barros KO 2 Isaias Santos Sampaio
Gottlieb Ndokosho KO 4 Feliciano Dario Azuaga
Chonlatarn Piriyapinyo TKO 3 Yon Armed
Lee Selby UD 12 Ryan Walsh
Jayson Velez UD 10 Dat Nguyen
Juan Carlos Olvera TKO 3 Juan Manuel Valdez
Orlando Salido KO 7 Orlando Cruz
Vasyl Lomachenko KO 4 Jose Ramirez
Hisashi Amagasa UD 12 Ryol Li Lee
Matias Rueda TKO 6 Diego Tejerina
Marc McCullough TKO 9 Willie Casey

JUNIOR FEATHERWEIGHTS

Lewis Pettitt W 10 Jamie Speight
Wilfredo Vazquez Jr. UD 12 Guillermo Avila
Rafael Vazquez KO 9 Leon Moore
Edivaldo Ortega TKO 6 Carlos Jacobo
Gavin McDonnell UD 12 Josh Wale
Edgar Monarrez UD 12 Ricardo Proano
Jorge Lara TKO 1 Oscar Ibarra
Scott Quigg D 12 Yoandris Salinas
Roman Morales UD 10 Roberto Castaneda
Jessie Magdaleno TKO 3 Raul Hidalgo
Shingo Wake TKO 3 Jhunriel Ramonal
Raul Hirales KO 8 Francisco Leal
Carl Frampton KO 6 Jeremy Parodi

BANTAMWEIGHTS

Tabtimdaeng Na Rachawat UD 12 Alvin Bais
Juan Carlos Sanchez Jr. TKO 7 Darwin Zamora
Alexis Santiago TKO 9 Alex Rangel
Karim Guerfi MD 12 Stephane Jamoye
Christian Esquivel TKO 2 Javier Franco
Pungluang Sor Singyu KO 3 Zun Rindam
Tepparith Singwancha TKO 5 Chuang Zhu Zhong
Felipe Orucuta TD 5 Javier Gallo
Marvin Mabait KO 1 Johnny Garcia
Julio Ceja TKO 10 Juan Jose Montes
Ernesto Saulong SD 10 Alie Laurel

JUNIOR BANTAMWEIGHTS

Angelito Merin UD 10 Rene Dacquel
Paul Butler UD 12 Miguel Gonzalez
David Carmona UD 10 Antonio Tostado Garcia
Matthew Villanueva TKO 8 Daniel Lozano
Srisaket Sor Rungvisai KO 2 Petch Pitigym
Ivan Morales UD 10 Cesar Javier Gandara
Jamie Conlan TKO 1 Walter Rojas

FLYWEIGHTS

Roman Gonzalez TKO 7 Francisco Rodriguez Jr.
Ardin Diale TKO 5 Jeffrey Cerna
Doctor Ntsele UD 12 Motswaki Moselesele
Nawaphon Por Chokchai KO 3 Wilber Andogan
Juan Alejo KO 2 Erik Ramirez
Iain Butcher KO 1 Gabor Molnar
Juan Carlos Reveco TD 8 Ricardo Nunez
Luis Concepcion KO 10 Carlos Ruben Dario Ruiz

JUNIOR FLYWEIGHTS

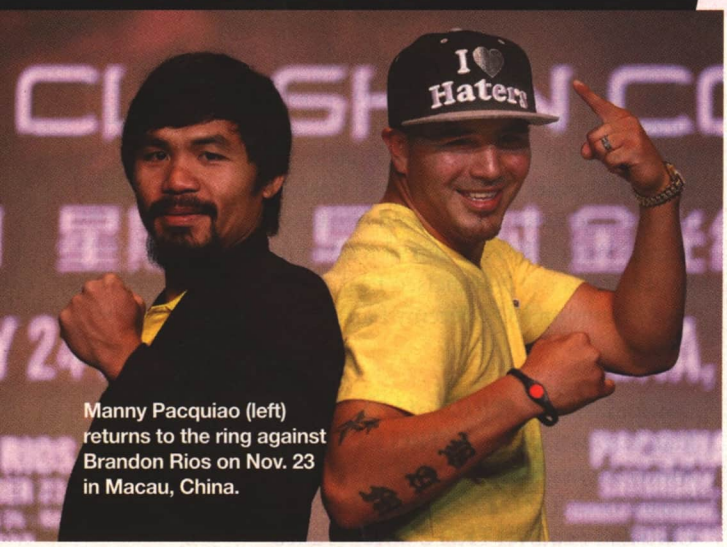
Mario Rodriguez SD 10 Odilon Zaleta
Alberto Rossel MD 12 Jose Alfredo Zuniga
Ramon Garcia Hirales TKO 3 Jose Antonio Jimenez
Erick Flores TKO 9 Mercedes Concepcion

STRAWWEIGHTS

Ronelle Ferreras UD 12 Jerson Luzarito

COMING UP

PREDICTIONS ARE MADE BY RING STAFF MEMBERS MICHAEL ROSENTHAL, DOUG FISCHER AND LEM SATTERFIELD.



Manny Pacquiao (left) returns to the ring against Brandon Rios on Nov. 23 in Macau, China.

NOVEMBER

MANNY PACQUIAO vs. BRANDON RIOS

Date: Nov. 23
Location: Venetian Resort, Macau, China
Division: Welterweights
TV: HBO Pay-per-view
Watchability rating (up to five stars): ★★★★★
Also fighting: Evgeny Gradovich vs. Billy Dib, featherweights.
Significance: Pacquiao (54-5-2, 38 KOs) must prove he remains an elite fighter after Juan Manuel Marquez stopped him with one punch last December, his second straight loss. Rios (31-1-1, 23 KOs) is coming off a loss to Mike Alvarado in their rematch. (See our preview package in the November 2013 issue).
Prediction: Rosenthal – Pacquiao UD; Fischer – Pacquiao KO 10; Satterfield – Pacquiao KO 9

CARL FROCH vs. GEORGE GROVES

Date: Nov. 23
Location: Phones 4U Arena, Manchester, England
Division: Super middleweights (for Froch's IBF title)
TV: Sky Box Office
Watchability rating (up to five stars): ★★★★
Also fighting: Anthony Crolla vs. Martin Gethin, lightweights.
Significance: Froch (31-2, 22 KOs) is one of the top fighters in the world, with a strong performance in the Super Six tournament and consecutive victories over Lucian Bute, Yusaf Mack and Mikkel Kessler. Groves (19-0, 15 KOs) is young, strong and well schooled but is taking a considerable step up.
Prediction: Rosenthal – Froch UD; Fischer – Froch MD; Satterfield – Froch UD.

Nov. 16 – Andre Ward vs. Edwin Rodriguez, super middleweights (for Ward's RING and WBA titles), Ontario, Calif. (HBO).

Nov. 16 – Tomasz Adamek vs. Vyacheslav Glazkov, heavyweights, Verona, N.Y. (NBC)

Nov. 16 – David Tua vs. Alexander Ustinov, heavyweights, Hamilton, New Zealand

Nov. 23 – Yoan Pablo Hernandez vs. Alexander Alekseev, cruiserweights (for Hernandez's RING and IBF titles), Bamberg, Germany

Nov. 30 – Johan Perez vs. Paul Spadafora, junior welterweights, Chester, W.Va.

Nov. 30 – Dereck Chisora vs. Matteo Modugno, heavyweights, London

Nov. 30 - Adonis Stevenson vs. Tony Bellew, light heavyweights (for Stevenson's RING and WBC titles), Quebec City, Canada (HBO)

Nov. 30 - Sergey Kovalev vs. Ismayl Sillakh, light heavyweights (for Kovalev's WBO title), Quebec City, Canada (HBO)

DECEMBER

PAULIE MALIGNAGGI vs. ZAB JUDAH

Date: Dec. 7
Location: Barclays Center, Brooklyn, N.Y.
Division: Welterweights
TV: Showtime
Watchability rating (up to five stars): ★★★★
Also fighting: Devon Alexander vs. Shawn Porter, for Alexander's IBF welterweight title, Erislandy Lara vs. Austin Trout, junior middleweights; Sakio Bika vs. Anthony Dirrell, for Bika's WBC super middleweight title.
Significance: The matchup of fellow New Yorkers isn't for a title but their personalities and name recognition, as well as the fact they're fighting in the Big Apple, make this intriguing. The winner will take a nice step to bigger and better things. The loser could be in trouble.
Prediction: Rosenthal – Malignaggi SD; Fischer – Malignaggi MD; Satterfield – Malignaggi UD.

DARREN BARKER vs. FELIX STURM

Date: Dec. 7
Location: Porsche Arena, Stuttgart, Germany
Division: Middleweights (for Barker's IBF title)
TV: Sky Sports
Watchability rating (up to five stars): ★★★
Significance: Barker (26-1, 16 KOs) is coming off his breakthrough victory, a decision over favored Daniel Geale in August that gave him his first world title at 31. Sturm (38-3-2, 17 KOs) was a long-reigning titleholder but, with mixed results in recent fights, he's trying to remain an elite fighter at 34.
Prediction: Rosenthal – Sturm UD; Fischer – Sturm SD; Satterfield – Barker SD.

ADRIEN BRONER vs. MARCOS MAIDANA

Date: Dec. 14
Location: Alamodome, San Antonio

Division: Welterweights (for Broner's WBA title)
TV: Showtime
Watchability rating (up to five stars): ★★★★
Also fighting: Leo Santa Cruz vs. Cesar Seda, junior featherweights (for Santa Cruz's WBC title); Keith Thurman vs. Jesus Soto Karass, welterweights; Alfredo Angulo vs. Jorge Melendez, junior middleweights; Beibut Shumenov vs. Tamas Kovacs, light heavyweights (for Shumenov's WBA title); Victor Ortiz vs. Alfonso Gomez, junior middleweights.
Significance: Broner (27-0, 22 KOs) had some trouble with slick Paulie Malignaggi in his most recent fight, a split-decision victory. Maidana (34-3, 31 KOs) doesn't have the skill set of Malignaggi but he has the power the "Magic Man" doesn't. That could make things interesting.
Prediction: Rosenthal – Broner UD; Fischer – Broner UD; Satterfield – Broner UD.

Dec. 6 – Krzysztof Wlodarczyk vs. Giacobbe Fragomeni, cruiserweight (for Wlodarczyk's WBC title), Chicago (ESPN3.com).

Dec. 6 – Akira Yaegashi vs. Edgar Sosa, flyweights (for Yaegashi's RING and WBC titles), Tokyo

Dec. 7 – Guillermo Rigondeaux vs. Joseph Agbeko, junior featherweights (for Rigondeaux's RING, WBA and WBO titles), Atlantic City, N.J. (HBO)

Dec. 7 – James Kirkland vs. Glen Tapia, junior middleweights, Atlantic City, N.J. (HBO)

Dec. 7 – Matthew Macklin vs. Willie Nelson, middleweights, Atlantic City, N.J. (HBO)

Dec. 21 – Kiko Martinez vs. Jeffrey Mathebula, junior featherweights (for Martinez's IBF title), Spain

BACK ISSUES
BUILD YOUR
COLLECTION

ORDER TODAY!
Ringtv.com • ringbackissues@sepublications.com • (215) 643-3087

YouTube
Visit THE RING's
new YouTube channel ...
TheRingDigital

BOXERS ORGANIZING COMMITTEE (BOC)
BOC
FOUNDED 1988

Boxers Organizing Committee (BOC)

Paul Johnson
Executive Director

763-438-2447

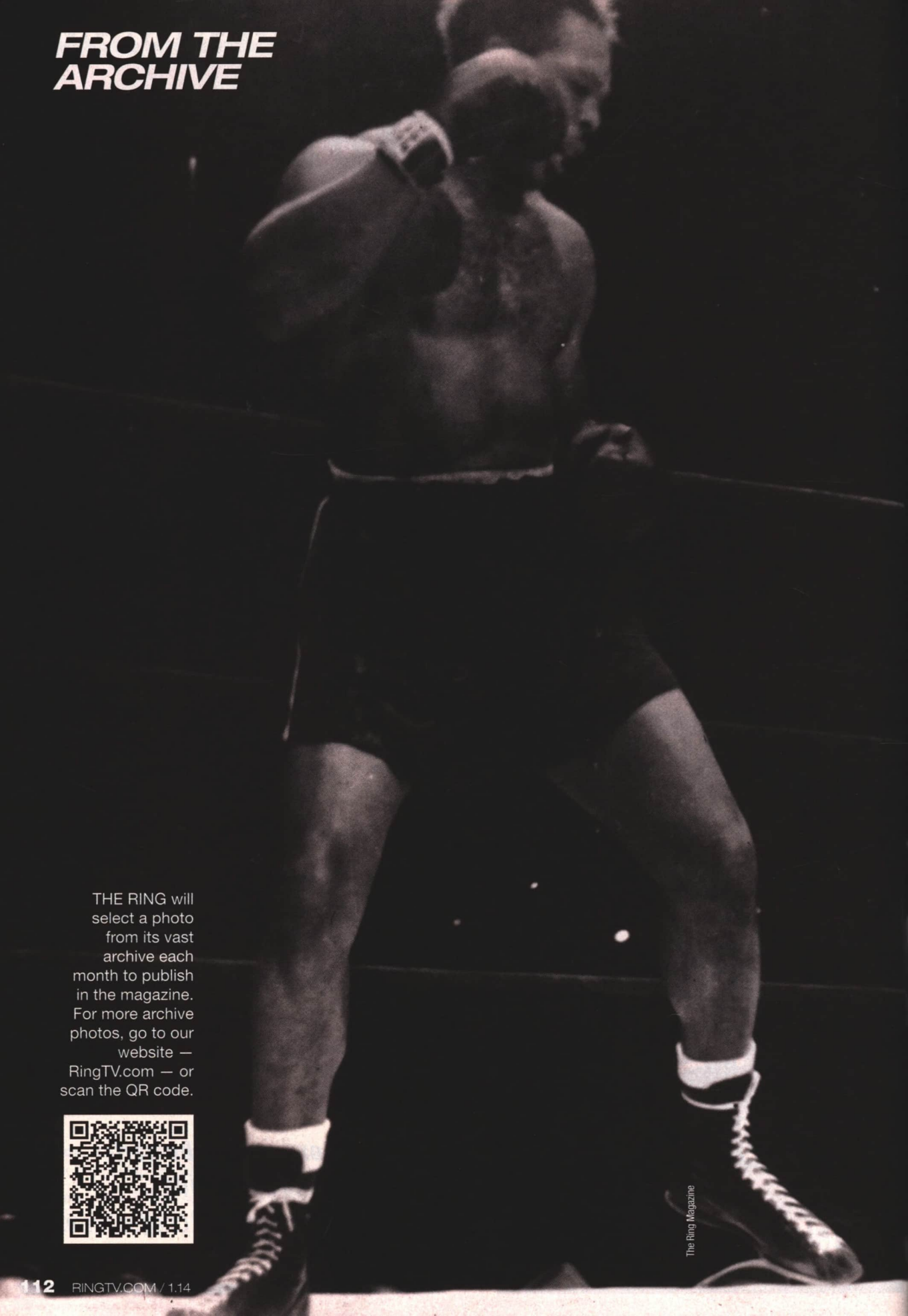
johnson4042@aol.com

www.boxers.org

Attention Boxers:
Please contact us to discuss your rights!

"Boxers must be part of the equation."
— BOC Member José Chegüi Torres

FROM THE ARCHIVE

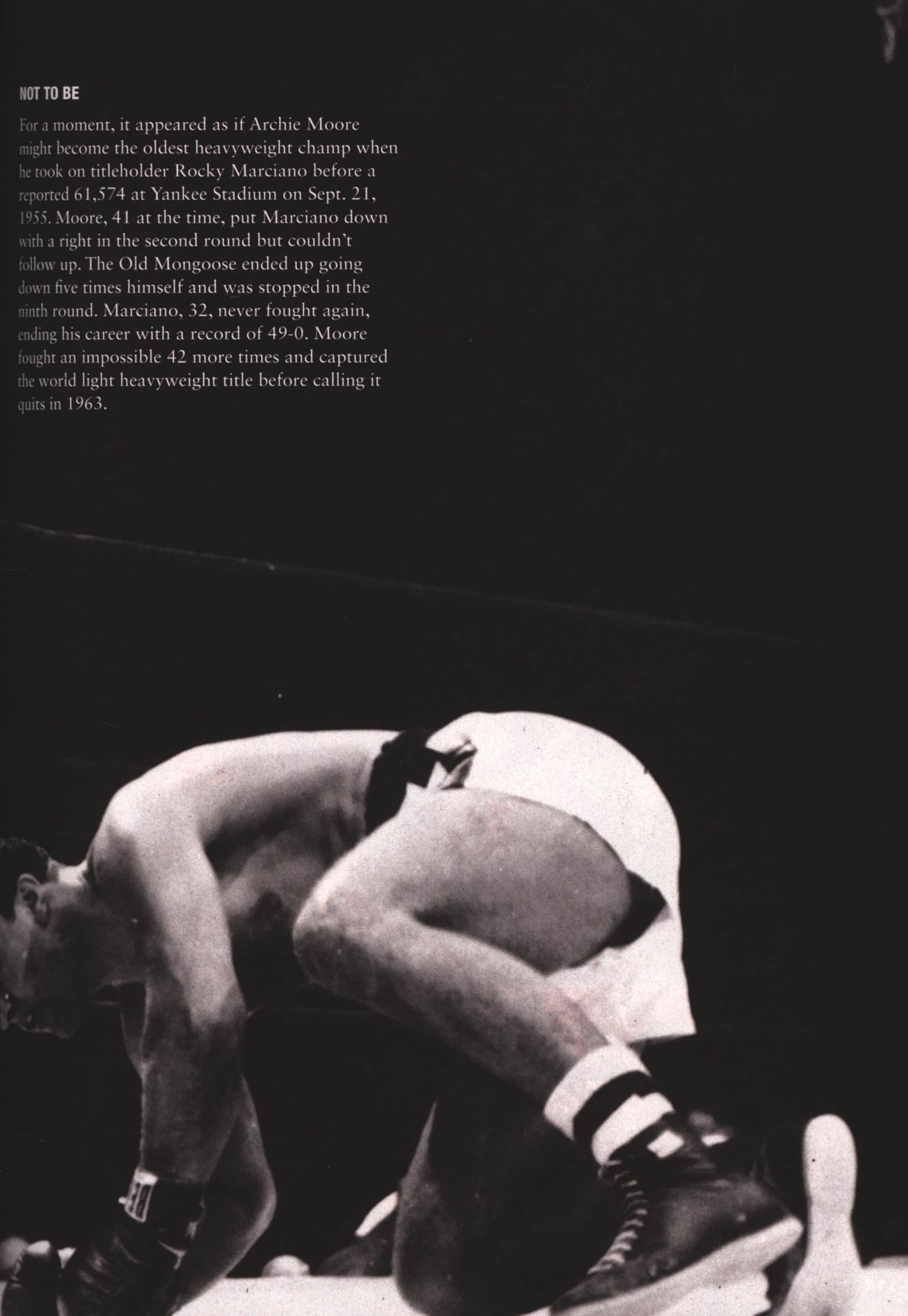


THE RING will select a photo from its vast archive each month to publish in the magazine. For more archive photos, go to our website — RingTV.com — or scan the QR code.

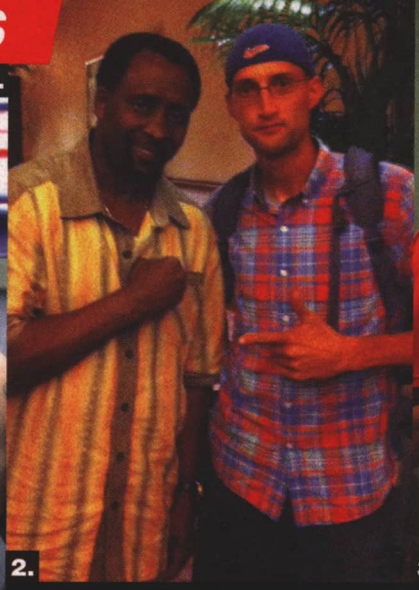
The Ring Magazine

NOT TO BE

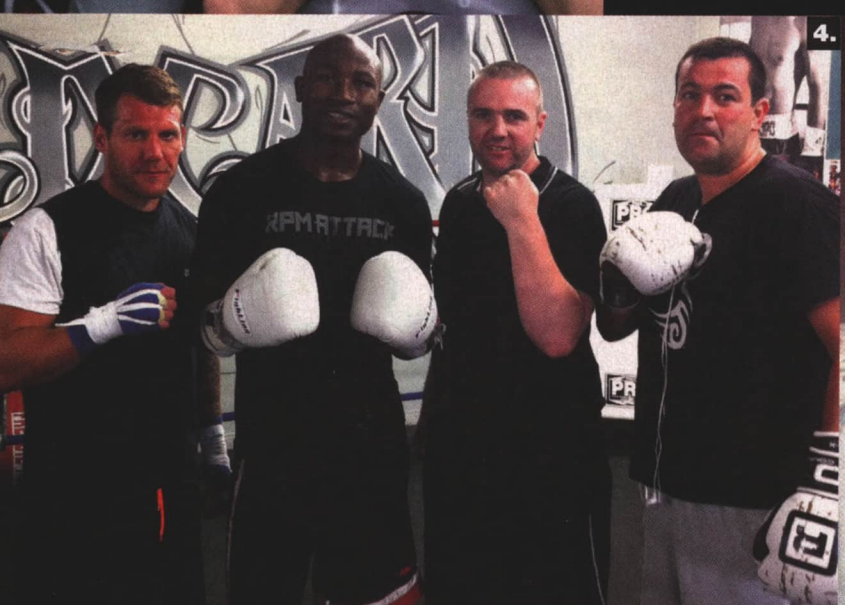
For a moment, it appeared as if Archie Moore might become the oldest heavyweight champ when he took on titleholder Rocky Marciano before a reported 61,574 at Yankee Stadium on Sept. 21, 1955. Moore, 41 at the time, put Marciano down with a right in the second round but couldn't follow up. The Old Mongoose ended up going down five times himself and was stopped in the ninth round. Marciano, 32, never fought again, ending his career with a record of 49-0. Moore fought an impossible 42 more times and captured the world light heavyweight title before calling it quits in 1963.

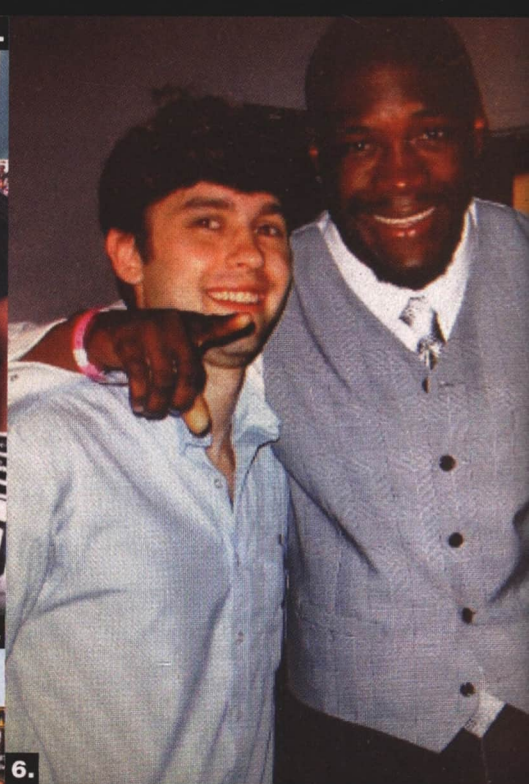


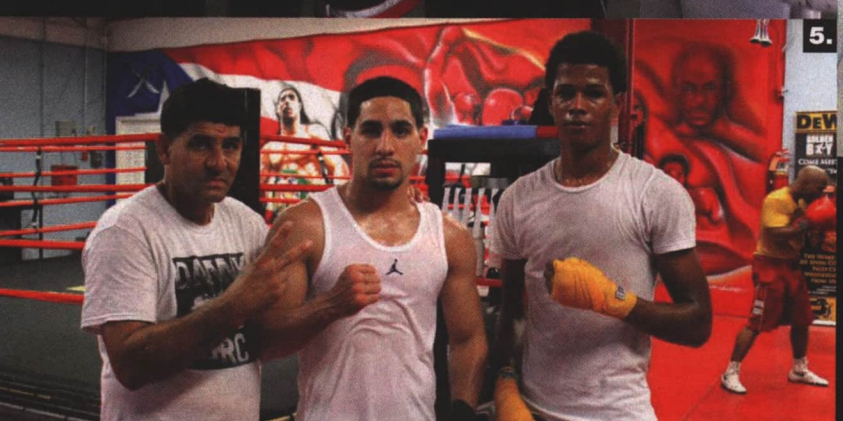
AT THE FIGHTS



1. Benno Nelson (left) with Vic Darchinyan in Glendale, Calif., where Darchinyan was preparing for his rematch with Nonito Donaire. 2. Mike Sabato (right) with Thomas Hearns during the Shawn Porter-Julio Diaz card on Sept. 12 at the MGM Grand. 3. Richard Fineo (left) with Jhonny Gonzalez before Gonzalez stopped Abner Mares in Carson, Calif. 4. (Left to right) John Moloney, cruiserweight contender Ola Afolabi, Simon Gildea and Jeff Samson. 5. Melvin Garcia (right) visiting the camp of Danny Garcia (center) and father/trainer Angel Garcia. 6. Armand Samuels (left) with Deontay Wilder the night Wilder stopped Kertson Manswell in Mobile, Ala.

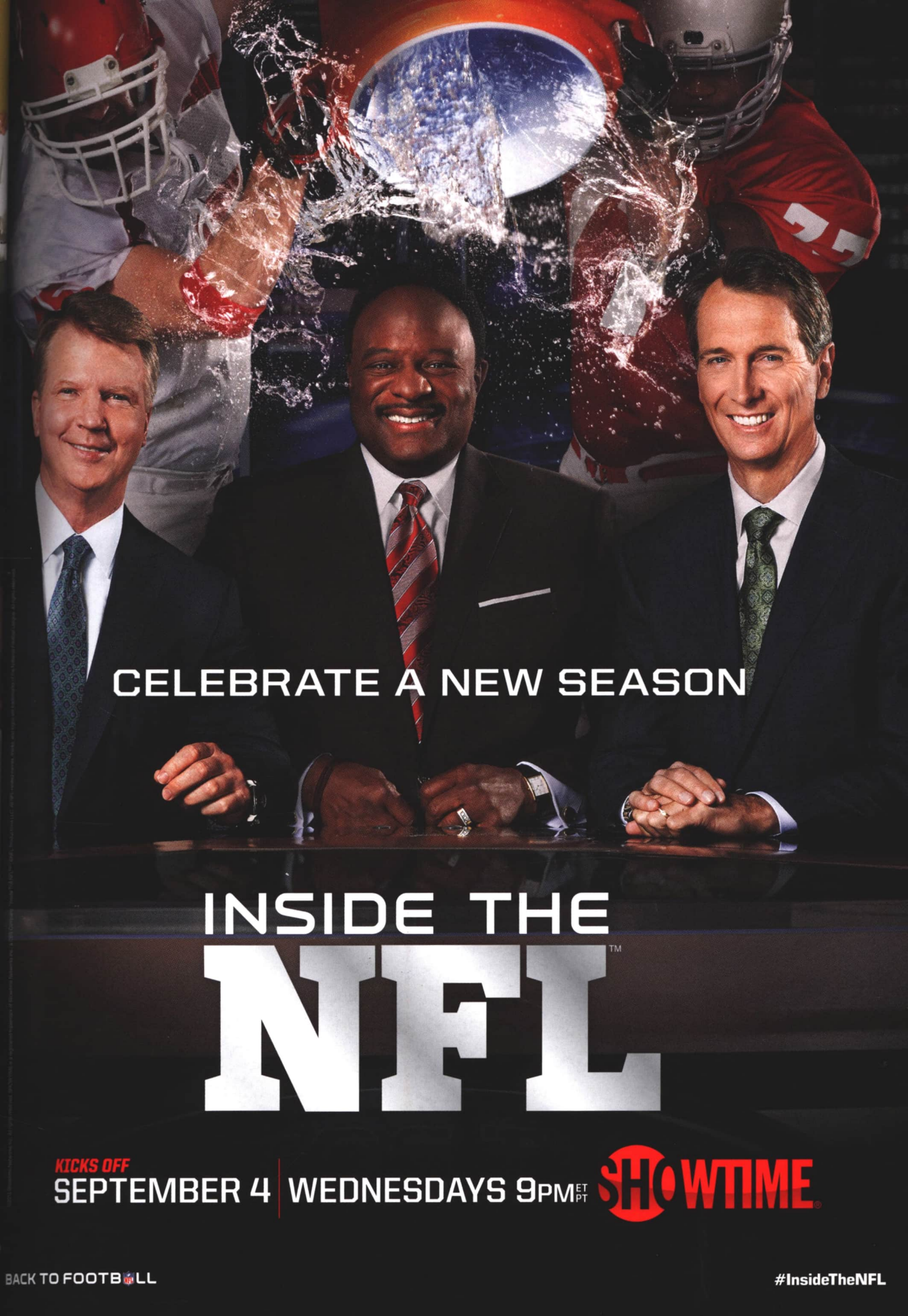






WANT TO SEE YOURSELF IN RING MAGAZINE?

Send us your photos from a fight with you posing next to a celebrity, athlete, or other famous person and we will consider it for publication in the magazine. Send photos to **celebrityphotos@sepublications.com.** Make sure to include your name(s), celebrity name(s), the fight attended, and your contact information. See you at the fights!


CELEBRATE A NEW SEASON
INSIDE THE
NFL™
KICKS OFF
SEPTEMBER 4 | WEDNESDAYS 9PM ET PT
SHOWTIME
BACK TO FOOTBALL
#InsideTheNFL

CONCERTS, SPORTS & THEATER TICKETS

(800) 348-8499

ALL MLB, NBA, NFL, NCAA, NASCAR, SUPER BOWL, FINAL FOUR, ALL STAR GAME & ALL MAJOR SPORTING EVENTS

www.BarrysTickets.com

WWW BARRYS TICKETS .com

Great Tickets! Great Service! Great Prices

Call (800) 348-8499 or visit BarrysTickets.com for great dea on concerts, sports and theater tickets, local & nationwide!